Remember Sydney massacre? Cops say son did it

STORY BELOW, COLUMN 1

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MTV/A4

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Alvarez out; Mendoza in

DOTC secretary resigns 'so nat'l interest could advance'

By Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

BYPASSED four times by the Commission on Appointments, Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez has decided to call it quits. He tendered his letter of irrevocable resignation to President Macapagal-Arroyo on Monday, the same day she reappointed him to his post.

"Armed with a fresh mandate from the President, I could have chosen to fight back. But I have decided to leave so the national interest could advance," Alvarez said in a short, emotional statement.

He himself could not be reached for comment. Department of Transportation and Communications staff said Alvarez was "indisposed."

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. said Alvarez's resignation "was a very noble gesture." Alvarez decided to resign, Afable said, because "he feels he has been so unfairly treated by his detractors."

"He wanted to free the President of this burden. This was after the President reappointed him," Afable said. "He said he'd rather be part of the solution than the problem."

In his statement, the former congressman from Davao del Norte did not mince words. "The yearlong confirmation process was a hellish experience for me and my family," Alvarez said.

"Bending all rules of fair play and civility, my detractors unleashed all kinds of lies, distortions, half-truths and misrepresentations in their determined campaign to destroy my name and reputation."

The main group opposing his confirmation by the CA, the MIA/Naia Association of Service Organizations (Maso) led by former Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Perfecto Yasay Jr., welcomed his decision.

"It was a good gesture on the part of Secretary Alvarez to resign and save President (Macapagal) from further embarrassment," Yasay said in a statement.

But he continued to call for the government to rescind the controversial Naia Terminal 3 concession agreement won by the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) in 1997.

"Even if the President's new appointee is highly qualified for the DOTC post, he will not be able to save the Naia 3 project unless the DOTC-Piatco contract is rescinded," Yasay said. Affiliated with Maso are companies like Philippine Airlines, owned by taipan Lucio Tan, which consider the Piatco contract detrimental to their operations.

The reaction from both houses of Congress ranged from the practical to the sentimental.

Administration Sen. Juan Flavier said the resignation came a little too late but was still the right thing to do. "If he (Alvarez) insists on his appointment, he would only end up as a lame-duck secretary," Flavier said.

ALVAREZ/A20

HERMOGENES EBDANE

NEW PNP chief keeping mum until he gets official marching orders from Malacañang.

LEANDRO MENDOZA

WHY him? "He gets the job done," says Palace. Foes, critics question choice.

IGNACIO BUNYE

PRESS secretary? Palace says he may well be GMA's choice.

BAYANI FERNANDO

YESTERDAY, Marikina. Today, Metro Manila. Can he make a difference?

Why Mendoza? Appointment hailed, jeered

By Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio

THE POLICE chief once described by President Macapagal-Arroyo as "too shy" and the country's version of Eliot Ness has been named secretary of transportation and communication.

Eliot Ness was the legendary lawman who sent Chicago Mafia boss Al Capone to jail during the American Prohibition.

The "good track record" of Leandro Mendoza, 56, "figured greatly" in the President's decision to appoint him to a Cabinet post, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable said yesterday in Malacañang.

In an interview over dzRH, Afable said Mendoza, a member of Class 1969 of the Philippine Military Academy, was the President's choice because "he gets the job done."

"He is a very good administrator. He did a good job at the PNP (Philippine National Police)," Afable said.

Mendoza replaces Pantaleon Alvarez, who resigned after being repeatedly bypassed by the Commission on Appointments.

Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, erstwhile chief of the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force and deputy director for administration, is the new PNP chief. *(See related story)*

'Mendoza said his appointment came as a surprise as he was looking forward to his retirement from the national police in September.

"I was offered some positions before but I

WHY/A20

PANTALEON ALVAREZ

CALLS it quits after four CA bypasses and "hellish experience" with detractors over the Naia Terminal 3 project.

Who's next? Rumor mills go on overdrive

By Carlito Pablo and Gerald Lacuarta

WITH yesterday's announcement of the resignation of controversial Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, the always busy rumor mills of the national capital went into overdrive. Who would be next?

The "other Alvarez" bypassed by the Commission on Appointments, Secretary Heherson Alvarez of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, quickly squelched speculation it would be him.

"It's an individual decision," the former senator and congressman told subordinates yesterday.

On numerous occasions, the DENR secretary had expressed optimism that he would be confirmed, citing his strong support from both houses of Congress.

After the President announced the ap-

WHO'S/A5

Bayani of Marikina is new MMDA chair

By Alcuin Papa and Carlito Pablo

CONSIDER this the biggest pair of shoes the multi-awarded former mayor of the country's shoe capital has ever had to fill.

Bayani Fernando, a three-term mayor of Marikina City, was appointed yesterday the new chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), the sprawling government bureaucracy in charge of the National Capital Region. The office is a Cabinet-level position.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced the appointment of the man credited with turning Marikina into a showcase city in off-the-cuff remarks at the opening ceremonies of the Culture and Arts Conference at the Pearl Manila Hotel.

Ms Macapagal told delegates she had ordered the MMDA to review the allocation of proceeds from the ongoing Metro Manila Film Festival. "Incidentally, you might want to know to whom I will give the instructions," she said. "You might want to know who will be the new (MMDA) chair."

BAYANI/A20

GMA: Ebdane meets all the standards

HERMOGENES Ebdane has been hounded by controversy since President Macapagal-Arroyo inadvertently revealed last year that he would succeed Leandro Mendoza as chief of the Philippine National Police.

But Ebdane, the erstwhile deputy director general of the PNP, managed to rise above this controversy.

He was finally appointed yesterday to the top PNP post.

"Let them be. I won't stoop to their level," Ebdane said last month after concerned PNP officials, hiding behind the cloak of anonymity, put out paid advertisements in newspapers questioning his qualifications.

Ms Macapagal stood by Ebdane despite the ads. "I studied the qualifications they (concerned PNP officials) stated there. He (Ebdane) meets all those standards," the President said.

The President had prematurely announced Ebdane's appointment to the top PNP chief after speculations came out that Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya would succeed Mendoza, who

GMA/A20

Remember Sydney massacre? Police say son did it

SAY it ain't so Sef: Arrested 11 months after grisly killings. REUTERS

SYDNEY—A 21-year-old Filipino immigrant, who recently offered a reward for the capture of the murderer of his parents and sister, was charged in court yesterday with the gruesome killings in Sydney last year.

Sef Gonzales, a law student at the University of NSW (New South Wales), pleaded not guilty but he did not apply for bail.

Magistrate John McIntosh placed the accused under police custody and ordered him to reappear at the Hornsby Local Court on June 25.

Police said Teodoro Gonzales, 46, his wife Mary, 43, and daughter Clodine, 18, were murdered on the evening of July 10, 2001 inside their two-story brick house in Sydney's northwest. The throats of both women had been slit.

At that time, Gonzales said that he discovered the bodies in the early hours of July 11 upon returning home from a night out with friends. He then alerted his neighbors and police.

Sources close to the investigation had said that a racist message scrawled in the victims' blood was found on a wall close to one of the bodies.

Sef Gonzales appeared on local television a few weeks ago declaring his innocence and offering a reward for the capture of the murderer.

On Thursday, however, police searched his home in Sydney's northern suburbs and arrested him.

"He was questioned and later charged with the murders," a police statement said.

His lawyer, Peter Kincominas, told the court that the police evidence against his client was circumstantial and that he had an alibi for a significant part of the evening of the murders.

Kincominas said he expected the police to include in its statement of facts the time of the murders that he claimed would clear his client.

"Police were told on a number of occasions that if they wanted my client, he would present himself to the police station with his legal advisers," the lawyer told the court.

"(But) he was arrested without notice this morning."

If convicted of the murders, Gonzales faces life imprisonment. Australia has abolished capital punishment.

A spokesperson for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs said that due to the high level of interest in the Philippines over the killings, officials had advised the Philippine Embassy in Canberra of Gonzales' arrest.

In Manila, the Australian Embassy also informed the National Bureau of Investigation about Gonzales' arrest.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI-Interpol chief, said Special Agent Bryan McDonald, Australian Federal Police attache, briefed him on the latest developments of the case.

"The killings happened a long time ago . . . I think they (Australian police)

REMEMBER/A4

Second FRONT PAGE

DAPAT MAHULI AT MAPARUSHAN ANG LAHAT NG ABU SAYYAF NA'YAN !

No new Abu hostages—AFP

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JUSTICE department will file criminal charges against an aide of Abu Sayyaf leader Abu Sabaya for the killing of American missionary Martin Burnham and nurse Ediborah Pamaran Yap during a bloody rescue attempt last Friday even as the military denied reports that the bandits have kidnapped new hostages.

"We have verified this and it's not true," defense department spokesperson Melchor Rosales said of press reports that the bandits had been spotted with some unarmed people in a cluster of islets off Zamboanga City.

Meanwhile, troops from elite military units continued to comb the mountains of Zamboanga del Norte for the bandits who appear to have melted into the jungle.

The military has also arrested four civilians in Sirawai, the site of Friday's encounter that resulted in the deaths of Burnham and Yap, for allegedly helping the bandits.

Military officials said the four were arrested based on information provided by Sabaya's bodyguard, Basir Ordoñez, who was captured during the hot pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf after the shootout.

State Prosecutor Aristotle Reyes said Ordoñez, who was captured in Barangay Culasian, half a kilometer from the site of the shootout, would be indicted for the abduction and killing of Burnham and Yap.

Home in Kansas

Martin's wife, Gracia, was wounded but rescued. She was flown home to Kansas on Monday and has been reunited with her children.

Ordoñez would be charged with kidnapping and serious illegal detention, the state prosecutor said.

He explained that the murder of Burnham and Yap would not be considered as a separate crime but "as an aggravating circumstance," which would warrant the imposition of capital punishment.

Under Section 8, Article 267 of the Revised Penal Code, the penalty of death would be imposed "where the kidnapping or detention was committed for the purpose of extorting money" or "when the victim dies as a consequence of the detention or is raped."

Ordoñez is likely to be charged at the Pasig Regional Trial Court where all other criminal cases against the Abu Sayyaf have been filed.

Implicated

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Ordoñez could be implicated in the other kidnappings allegedly committed by the Abu Sayyaf, such as the abduction of schoolteachers and pupils of Tumahubong Elementary School in Sumisip, Basilan, on March 20, 2000.

The justice department has charged 126 ASG members with 50 counts of kidnapping and serious illegal detention before the Pasig RTC for the Tumahubong incident.

Of the 126, 76 suspected ASG members are now detained in Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan, Taguig.

The four suspects—Aradiel Wadja, 34, Totong Lumimbang, 35, Tarsan Janihim, 25 and Boy Sahibul, 24,—denied they helped the Abu Sayyaf to escape pursuing troops although one of them admitted seeing the bandit group about 15 days ago.

Roadblocks

But the military said they were giving more weight to Bashier's statement that they were sympathizers.

As this developed, Acting Mayor Richard Rambuyo of Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay, said he had received reports that the Abu Sabaya were already in Tungawan, Zamboanga del Sur. ***With reports from Martin P. Marfil, Manila, Hernan P. dela Cruz and Lullie A. Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and Alex V. Pal, PDI Visayas Bureau***

Troops step up hunt for Korean's kidnappers

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Military troops have stepped up a manhunt for the Pentagon kidnap gang holding a South Korean hostage in South Cotabato province, the military said yesterday.

Additional troops have been sent to scour hinterland areas around Palimbang and Maitum towns where the Pentagon gang of rogue Moro guerrillas is believed to be holding Yoon Jae-kun, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Nardo Balboa said.

Yoon, 45, was seized by Pentagon members in February and is the last foreigner held by Muslim kidnappers in Mindanao.

"The pursuing troops are now scouring the mountain where the hostage is being (held) by his abductors," Balboa told reporters here.

"There will be no letup in their rescue of Yoon," regional Army brigade commander Col. Alexander Yano said.

Officials said the shadowy Pentagon group is composed mostly of renegade members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Muslim separatist group now negotiating peace with the government.

Nine Pentagon gunmen and two soldiers were killed in a fierce gun battle in the area on Tuesday, while five other soldiers were also wounded, officials said.

The Pentagon group was also held responsible for the abduction last year of Italian priest Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni and four mainland Chinese who were working on a dam project in Maguindanao. The priest was freed early this year, while two of the Chinese were killed in a rescue attempt late last year. *AFP*

New chief gets feel of Comelec

By Blanche S. Rivera

"SO this is what it feels like."

Newly appointed Commission on Elections chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. yesterday enjoyed a giddy first visit to his soon-to-be office—Comelec headquarters in Intramuros, Manila.

Dropping in on a surprise visit, Abalos said it felt "good" to be back at the Comelec, this time as its chairman and not as a complainant or respondent in an electoral case.

"So this is how if feels to be Comelec chairman. You have more impact," a cheerful Abalos said at his first press briefing as Comelec head.

In a very rare display of congeniality, the bickering commissioners of the Comelec, including former chair Alfredo Benipayo, sat down with Abalos in an informal briefing prior to the news conference.

Florentino Tuason Jr., a re-appointed commissioner identified with Benipayo, was exchanging jokes with Luzviminda Tancangco, Benipayo's most vocal critic.

Acting Comelec chair Rufino Javier also made light of the turnover ceremony next week, telling a jovial Benipayo he would be the one to formally hand over the Comelec helm to Abalos.

Re-appointed Commissioner Resurreccion Borra, also identified with Benipayo, and Mehol Sadain, a Tancangco ally, were more serious during the briefing but both said they were sincere in pursuing unity in the poll body that had been wracked by infighting.

When asked how he has managed to unify the bickering officials, Abalos said, "They did it themselves. I don't think anyone has been saying things against each other."

The new Comelec chair said he would also work hard to eliminate cheating in elections and to expedite cases that have piled up at the Comelec.

A former mayor of Mandaluyong City, Abalos said he had a bad experience with the Comelec then that should help him relate to officials embroiled in cases before the poll body.

"The Comelec lost all my evidence before. That's why I felt different when I came here," Abalos said.

J.P. Meneses; 84

JOSEFINA Perez-Meneses, mother of restaurateur Tita Trillo, died on June 12 of complications arising from an aneurysm and open heart surgery. She was 84.

She is survived by her children—aside from Tita—Ricardo, Eddie, Nelson and Joe and their families.

Her remains will be brought to the Funeraria Paz Chapel, Naguilian Rd., Baguio City this morning from Las Piñas City. Interment will be at the Everlasting Cemetery on Loakan Ave. across the Philippine Military Academy on June 18 at noon.

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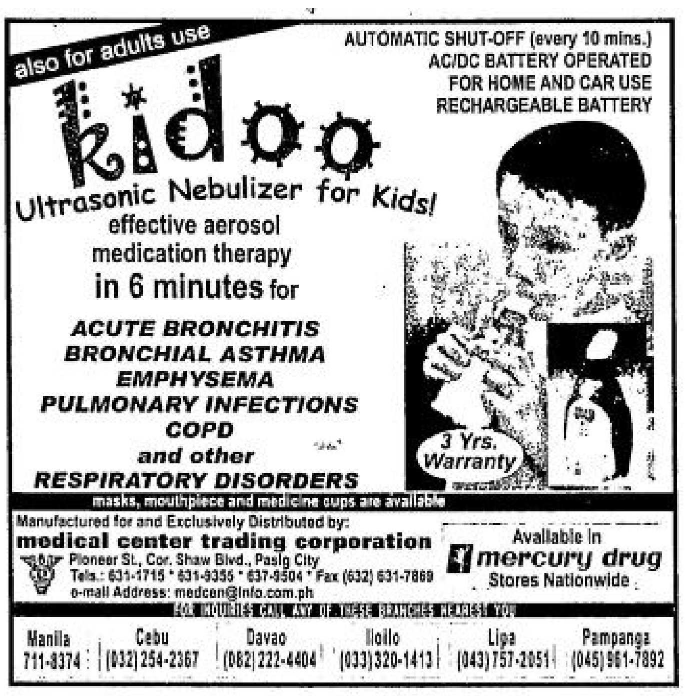
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Farmers ask DAR to cover Arroyos' land

By G. Lacuarta

FARMERS and civil groups in Negros Occidental have urged the Department of Agrarian Reform to help President Macapagal-Arroyo fulfill her promise to place under land reform the vast landholdings of her husband's family in the province.

The Peace Foundation and the Partnership for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development Services (Parrds) identified the Arroyo family's Hacienda Manolita in Barangay Payao, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental, as one of the landholdings.

Ninety-five of the hacienda's 100 hectares are covered under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program of the government, said Dong Calmala of the Peace Foundation.

Farmworkers of the hacienda, who formally organized the Manolita Laborers and Farmworkers Association, have been clamoring for the distribution of the property since 2000, he said.

On July 5, 2000, the DAR started the process of compulsory acquisition (CA) by sending JJ Corp., the Arroyos' landholding firm, a Notice of Coverage—the first of 27 steps toward acquisition of "CARP-able" lands.

On Feb. 21, 2001, an ocular inspection was conducted of the property.

Four months later, on the occasion of the 13th anniversary of CARP, the President made a promise to "lead by example," by having the lands owned by her husband's family distributed to its tenants.

"With this promise in mind, the beneficiaries hoped the pace of distribution would significantly move forward. Yet... (it has been) very slow," said Calmala.

Offer to sell

Calmala said First Gentleman Miguel "Mike" Arroyo's family even made a voluntary offer to sell (VOS) the land on July 10, 2001, to change the mode of transfer from compulsory acquisition.

The Land Bank of the Philippines had valued the property at P16 million or P160,000 per hectare.

The farm administrator, according to the 57 potential farmer-beneficiaries, has been telling them the land will never be distributed because the government does not have the money to buy it and the farmers would never be able to pay its high price.

Calmala said until agrarian reform becomes a reality at Hacienda Manolita, its farmworkers will continue to live in abject poverty.

Farmworkers work a maximum two days a week and are paid P120 per day. But they actually get only 10 percent of their pay in cash—the rest is paid in the form of rice valued at P900 a sack, he said.

Gomez, 39

JOSE "Joey" Gomez, former Philippine Daily Inquirer employee, died of a lingering illness yesterday morning at the University of Perpetual Help Hospital in Las Piñas City.

He was 39. His remains lie at the Funeraria Filipina in Zapote, Las Piñas. He is survived by his wife Chona, who is also an employee of the INQUIRER, and children Joshua, Jerome and Camille. Interment will be announced later.

Joey is the son of David and Melicia Gomez of San Jose, Northern Samar.

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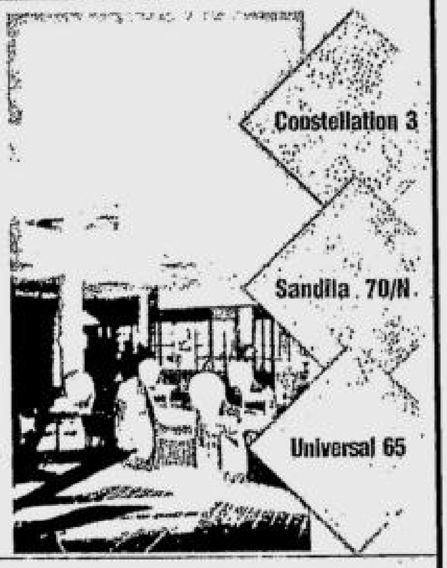

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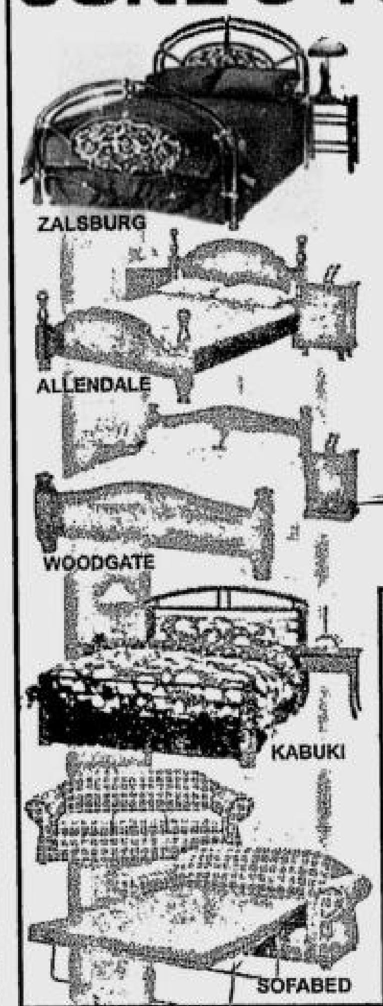

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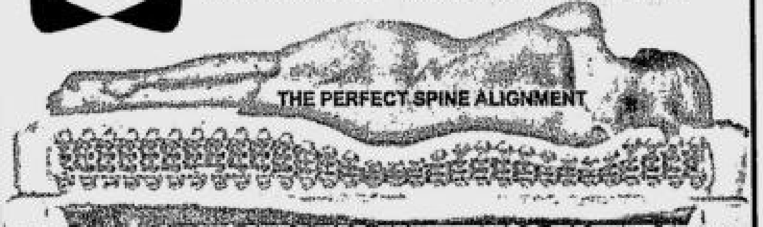

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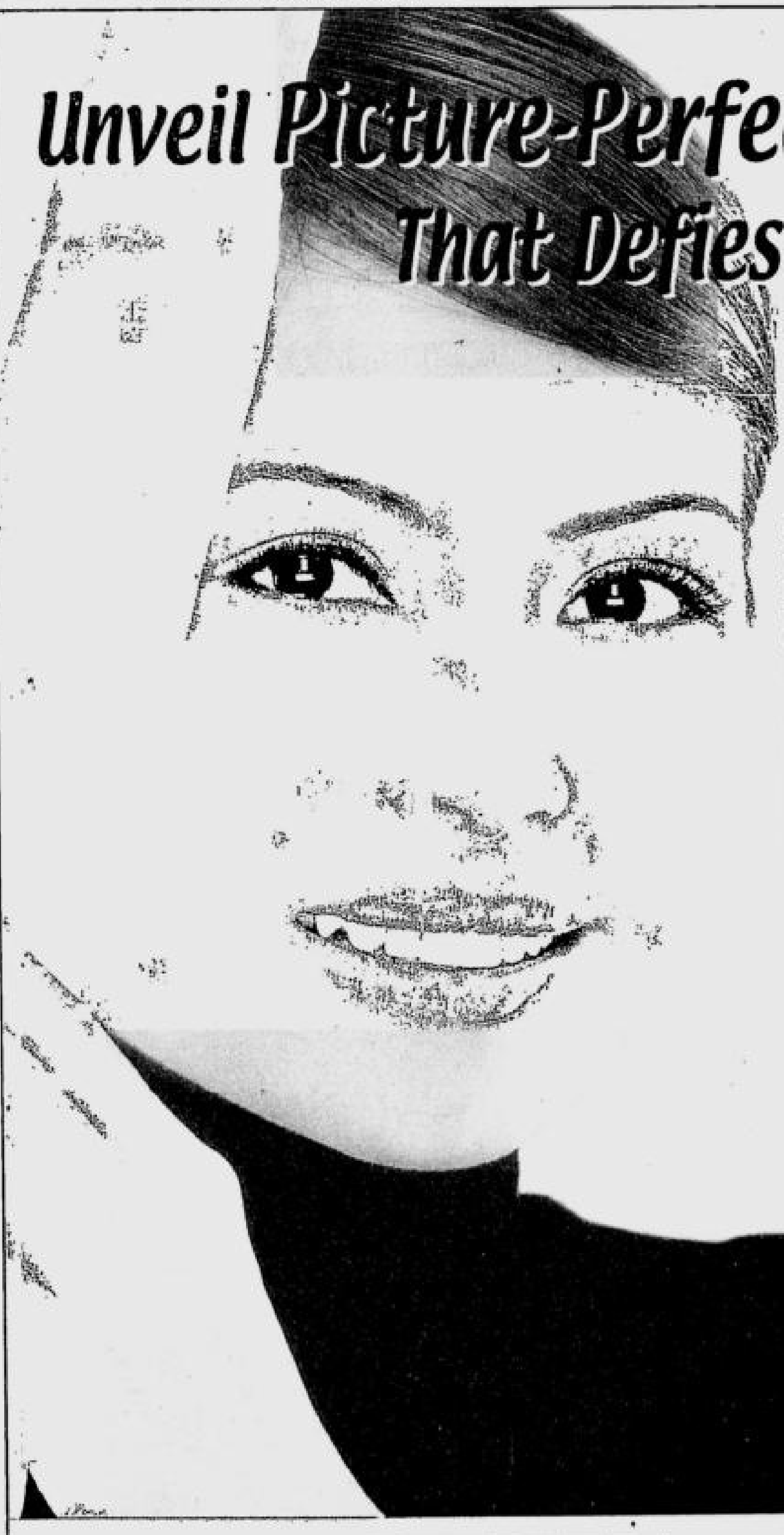

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Remember Sydney massacre last year? Cops say son did it

FILE photo of the slain members of the Sydney-based Gonzales family: Teodoro, wife Mary and daughter Clodine.

From page A1

since they waited this long (before making the arrest)," Diaz said.

The NBI sent a team to observe the investigation last year, but Diaz said the bureau would likely not send another one when the trial starts.

"He is an Australian citizen. The crime happened in Australia and they have jurisdiction over the case," he said.

An NBI source earlier said his family might have maltreated Sef Gonzales and that he might have snapped.

"He was reportedly kicked, slapped and beaten. He was a battered boy," the source said.

Shortly after the killings, Gonzales appeared close to tears when he made a public appeal for help in finding his family's killer.

"It is difficult to explain the love and ties in my family but if you were to picture the four corners of the world, in my world we were the four," he told reporters at the time.

A lawyer and devout Catholic, Teddy Gonzales brought his family to Australia in 1991. The elder Gonzales later set up a successful legal practice specializing in immigration matters.

The Gonzales family had been living in Baguio City.

Sef Gonzales' uncle, Dr. Ronaldo Paraan, said in Baguio City that he received a call from Sydney telling him about his nephew's arrest.

"We got no details about the arrest or why he was arrested. So we cannot give any reaction," Paraan told the INQUIRER by telephone. ***Reports from Reuters, AP and Philip C. Tubeza***

FILM grab of Sef Gonzales shortly after the police and the media arrived at the scene of the gory killings that shocked Australia and the Philippines.

MTV sued . . .

From page A1

hotel room as part of a hidden-camera prank for a reality TV show.

James and Laurie Ann Ryan of Washington, D.C. also named the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas in the suit. They accused the cable network and the resort of invasion of privacy, infliction of emotional distress and fraud, among other things, their lawyer said Wednesday.

The suit was originally filed in Los Angeles in April but had gained public attention this week after it was moved to a federal court.

It said the couple became unwitting participants in a practical joke, filmed for an MTV series under development called "Harassment," while they were on vacation in January.

Upon entering the hotel room, the Ryans "discovered what appeared to be a dead human body covered and surrounded by blood, evidently the victim of a homicide," as hidden cameras recorded their shock, the suit says.

When the couple tried to flee, two actors posing as security guards blocked their way, and a third person in the guise of a paramedic entered the room.

The show's host and co-producer, Ashton Kutcher, who has described the series as a "guerrilla-style Candid Camera," finally emerged to reveal the prank.

But the Ryans were not amused.

They are seeking $10 million in compensatory damages against MTV, the Hard Rock Hotel and Kutcher, said their lawyer.

Both the cable network, which is owned by Viacom Inc., and the privately owned hotel declined to comment on the case.

An MTV spokesperson said the incident in question was filmed as part of a pilot episode for "Harassment," which has not aired.

She said the future status of the program was uncertain.

"Harassment" is not the first reality show to land MTV in legal trouble.

Two teenage girls sued the network in April 2001 after they were sprayed with human excrement by performers billed as the "Shower Rangers" during the taping of a program called "Dude, This Sucks."

MTV had apologized for the incidnt and had promised never to air footage of the incident. That suit remains in litigation. ***Reuters***

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VITARICH CORPORATION

VITARICH NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
Friday, 28 June 2002 at 2:00 P.M.
Discovery Suites, Columbus Room, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of VITARICH CORPORATION (the "Corportion") will be held on Friday, 28 June 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Discovery Suites, Columbus Room, ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Certification of Notice to Stockholders and Presence of a Quorum
3. Approval of Minutes of the Previous Stockholders' Meeting
4. Report by the Chairman - Chief Executive Officer / President - Chief Operating Officer
5. Confirmation and Ratification of the Acts of the Board of Directors and Officers
6. Election of Directors for the Ensuing Year
7. Appointment of External Auditors
8. Appointment of the Stock and Transfer Agent
9. Other Matters
10. Adjournment

For the purpose of determining the stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at the meeting, the record date is 29 May 2002. The Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation shall be closed from 29 May 2002 to 28 June 2002.

Proxies must be submitted to the Special Committee of Election Inspectors of the Corporation at the Executive Office of the Corporation at Unit W902-B Tektite Tower, PSE Building, Exchange Road Ortigas Center, Pasig City on or before 18 June 2002. Proxies shall be validated by the Special Committee of Inspectors of the Corporation at the Executive Office of the Corporation on 21 June 2002.

On the day of the meeting, you or your duly designated proxy are hereby required to bring this Notice and any form of identification such as driver's license, passport, company I.D., voter's I.D., or TIN Card to facilitate registration. Registration shall start at 1:00 p.m. and will close at 1:45 p.m.

ATTY. ROLANDO B. FALLER
Assistant Corporate Secretary

vitarich-noticestockholders2002@vitarich7dsk

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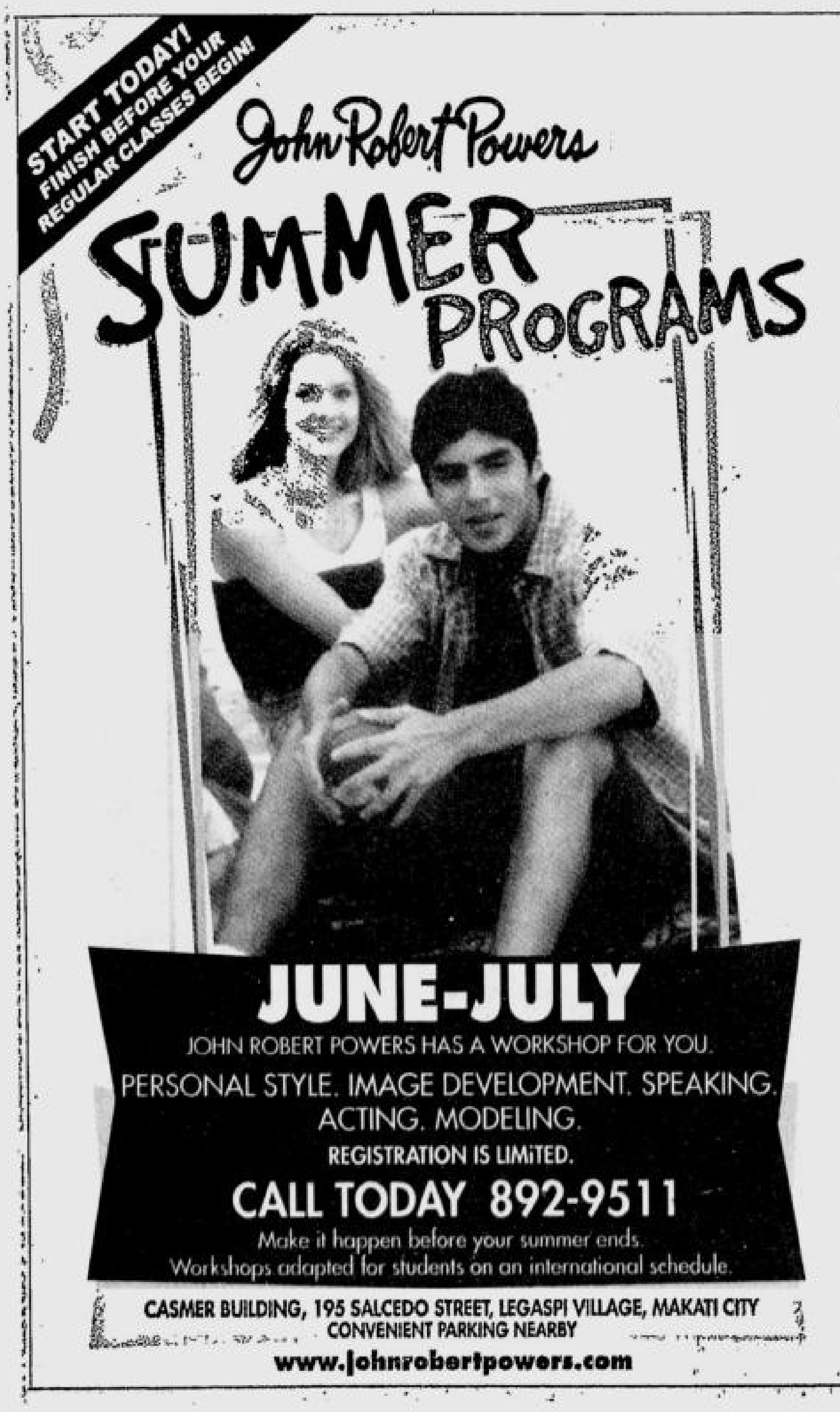

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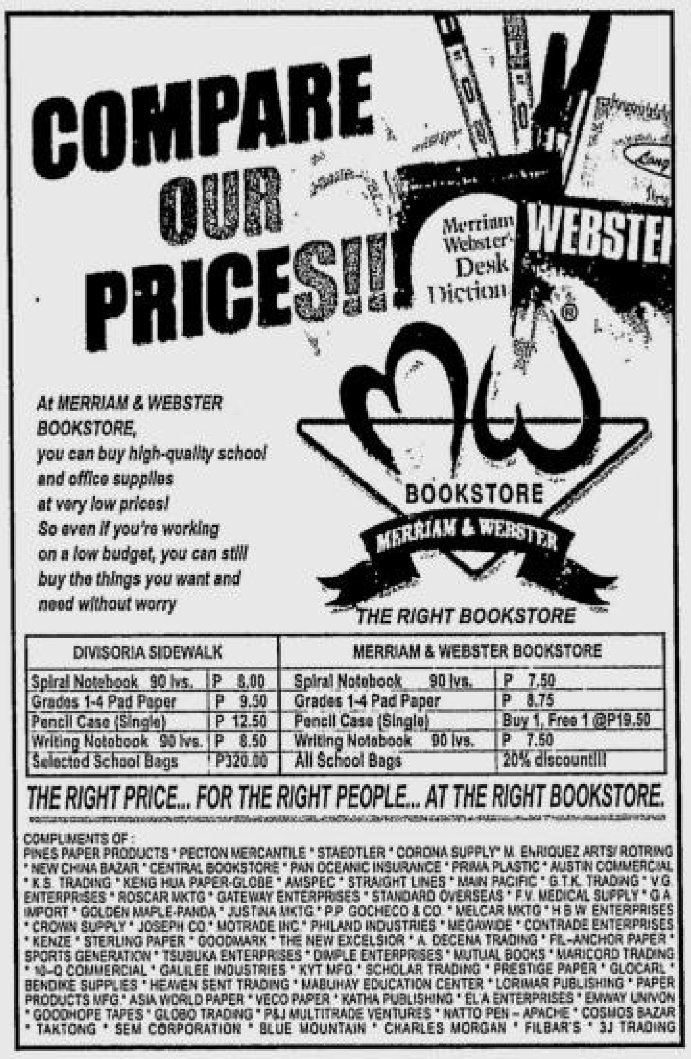

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STO. TOMAS: Talks abuzz that she quit.

LORENZO: 'One Million Jobs' man not aware of labor offer.

Who's next? Rumor mills go on overdrive

From page A1

pointment of former Mayor Bayani Fernando as chair of the Metro Manila Development Authority, Malacañang officials were saying in private that President Macapagal-Arroyo may appoint former Muntinlupa Mayor and Congressman Ignacio Bunye to replace Press Secretary-on-leave Rigoberto Tiglao, effective July 1.

Bunye is the father of lawyer Patricia Bunye, spokesperson of First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

Asked for comment, acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr. replied: "I have heard the President speak about it once, but she was just thinking out loud."

Another source said Ms Macapagal was also set to announce the appointment of Presidential Adviser on One Million Jobs Luis Lorenzo as secretary of labor and employment, replacing Patricia Sto. Tomas. Lorenzo told the INQUIRER, however, that he was not aware of his reported appointment. Asked if he was going to accept the position if offered, Lorenzo said, "I don't know."

"We have already put in place the necessary policies and programs that will ensure the creation of jobs," Lorenzo said, "but there's still a lot more that we can do."

Other names

Afable said he "didn't hear other names" in that conversation with the President about two weeks ago, and added that he had not seen any appointment papers yet.

All appointment papers pass through Afable's desk because he is also the head of the Presidential Management Staff. He was appointed acting press secretary when Tiglao, who is also Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, took a six-month leave in April for a fellowship at the Kyoto University in Japan.

The President recently said that she is scouting for a new press secretary because Tiglao, who had crossed a number of politicians as spokesperson, might have a tough time before the Commission on Appointments.

Tiglao, who is due to return in October, will remain the President's spokesperson and will assume in concurrent capacity the post of presidential chief of staff.

In his regular press briefing, Afable recalled Ms Macapagal as having said that "we should talk to Bunye," because she intended Afable to return to full-time PMS work.

DENR's Alvarez faces stiff opposition at the CA from Peter Abaya, former director of the Environmental Management Bureau who has accused him of concocting charges against him and dismissing him without due process.

There are a total of 21 groups and individuals, including Abaya, who oppose Alvarez's appointment. The groups included the DENR's main employees unions.

Alvarez has brushed aside criticisms against him, and accused certain influential interest groups like big fishing operators as those behind a smear campaign. ***With reports from Corrie Narisma and Fe Zamora, INQ7.net***

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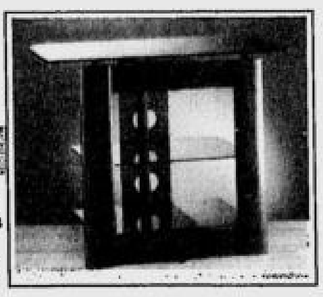

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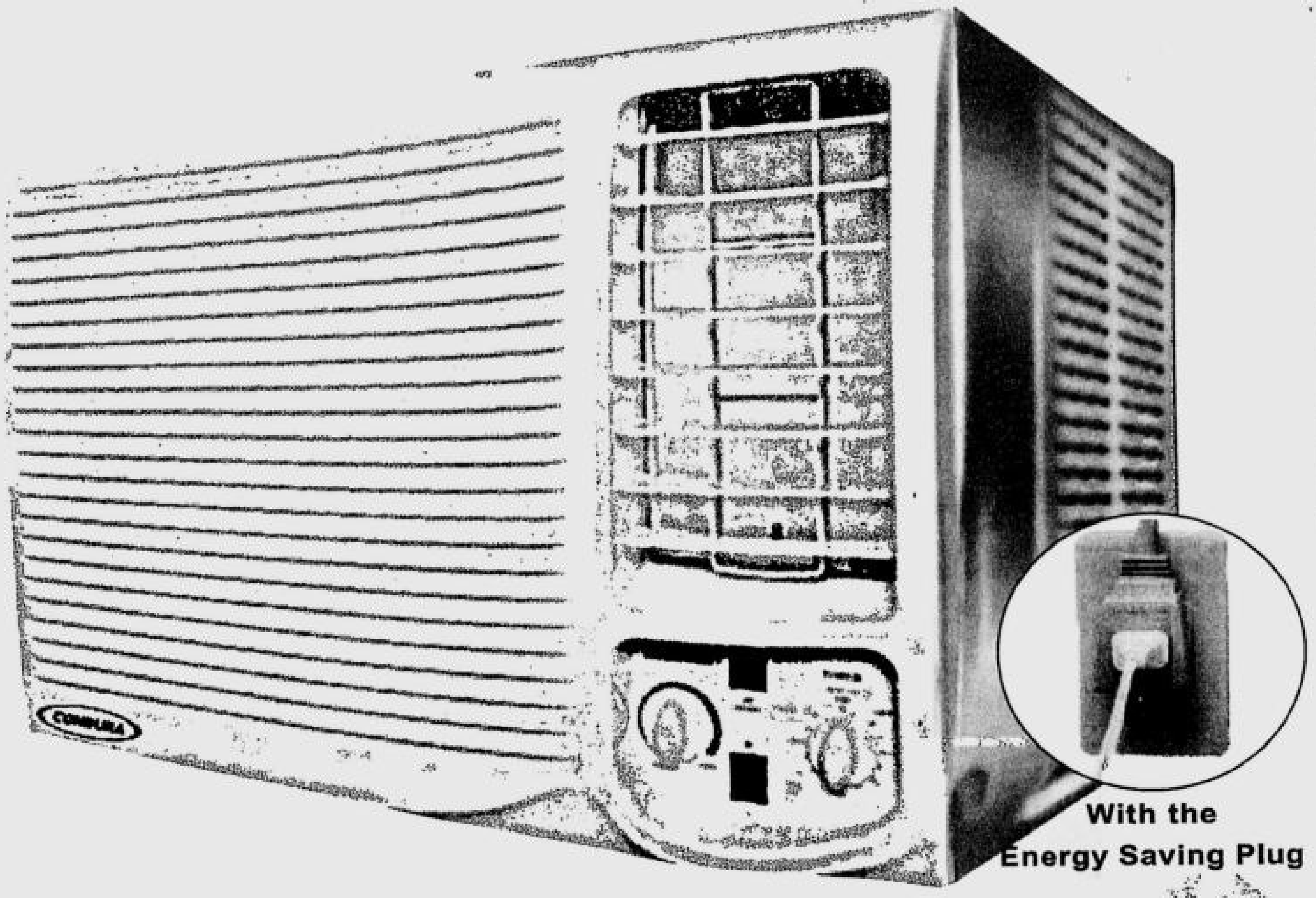

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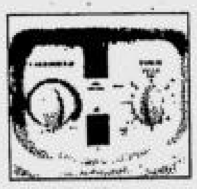

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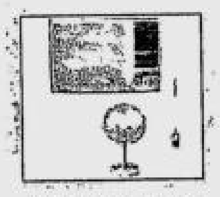

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Renovations for Mikey's wedding distrupt Lubao church activities

LUBAO, Pampanga—As there are pride and excitement in this town's hosting of the wedding of Vice Gov. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, son of President Macapagal-Arroyo, and Angela Montenegro, there are also its downside.

The renovations being made on the San Agustine Church, venue of the first wedding in the First Family on June 24, have disrupted the religious activities there, according to Fr. Rodolfo de Guzman, the parish priest.

"Definitely we're busy," he said.

The annual flower offering last May was postponed. Prayer meetings had been held elsewhere. Several times, the Holy Mass was celebrated outside the 430-year-old church.

All because construction activities there have been on full-blast since May, said De Guzman.

On Wednesday, workers were busy putting up a huge, air-conditioned tent for the stand-up reception. From the altar, an extended platform was installed.

The altar, the remnant of the original church deemed as the oldest in Central Luzon, has been refurbished to highlight its antique feature. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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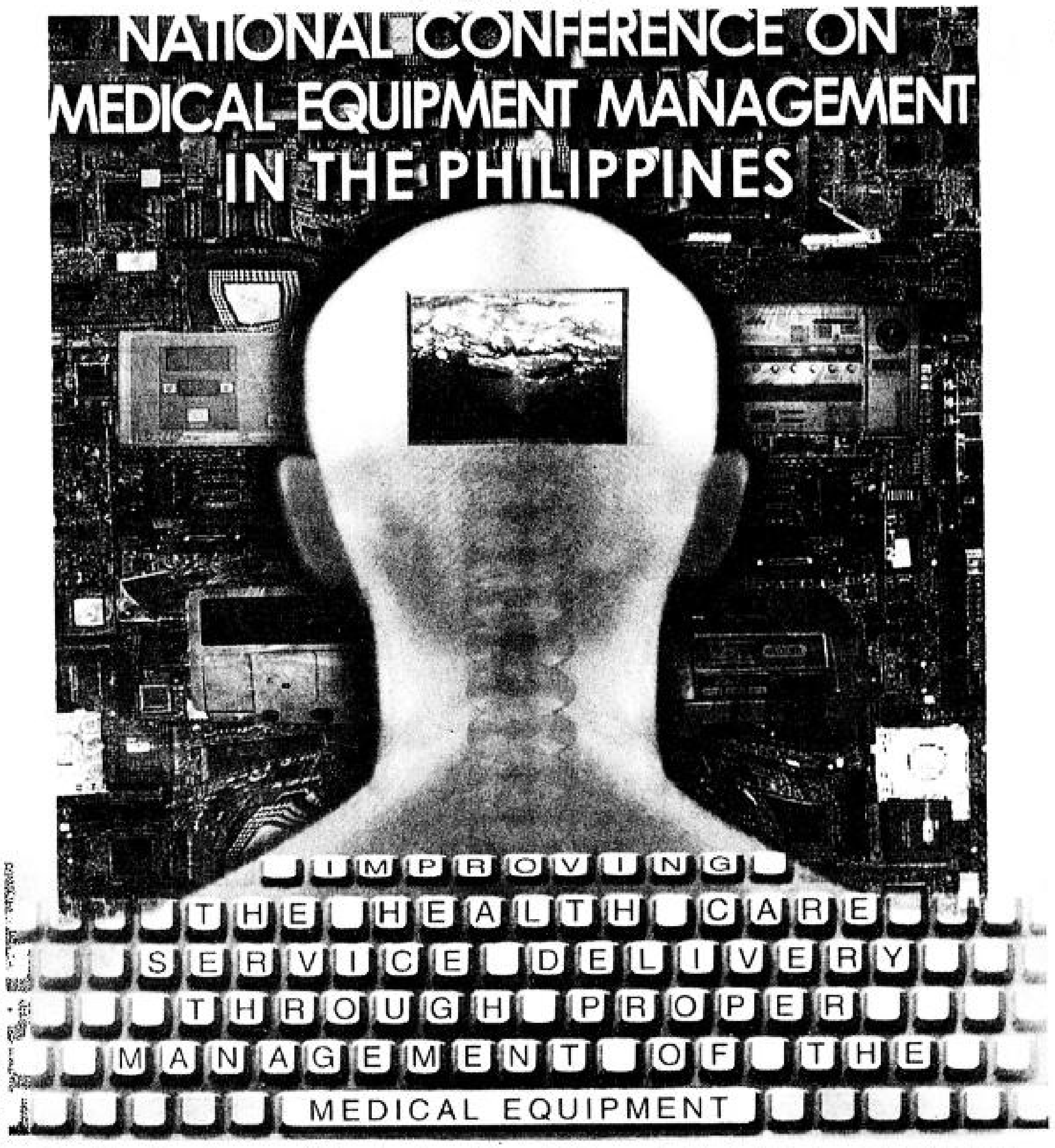

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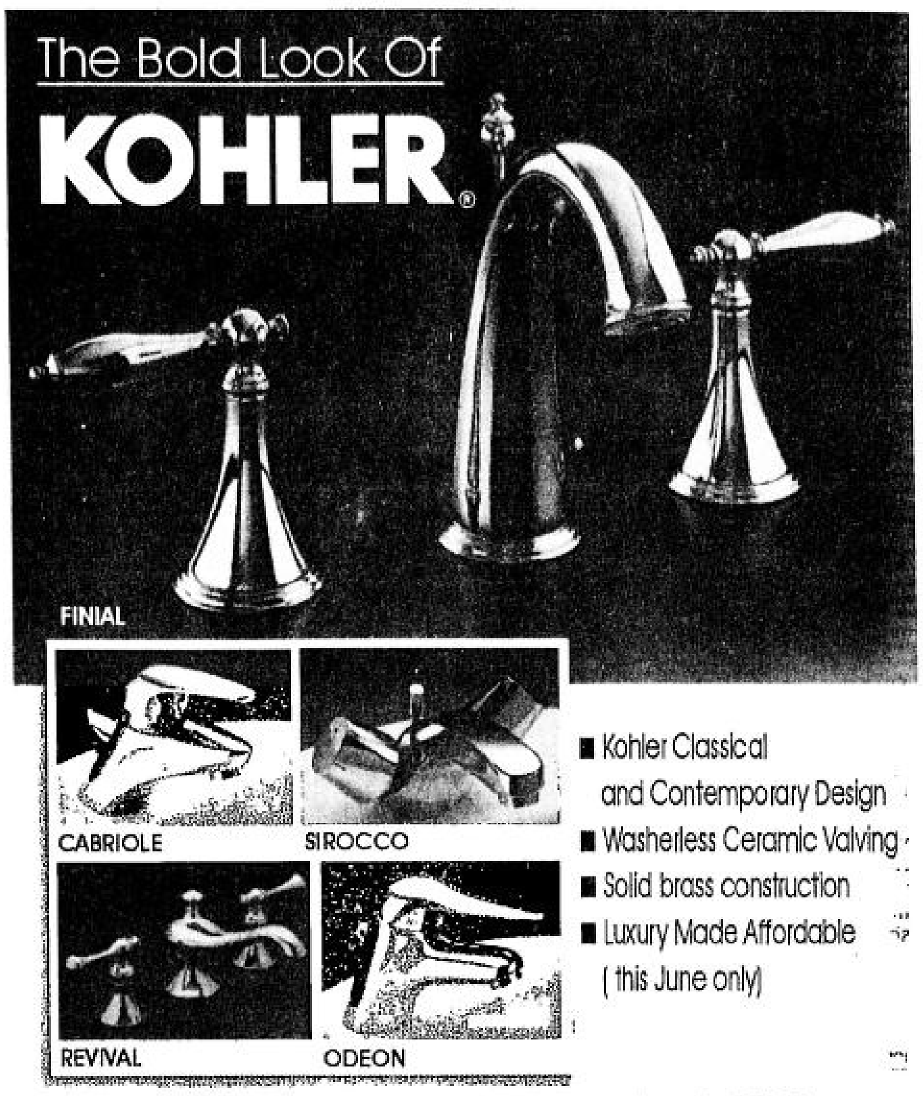

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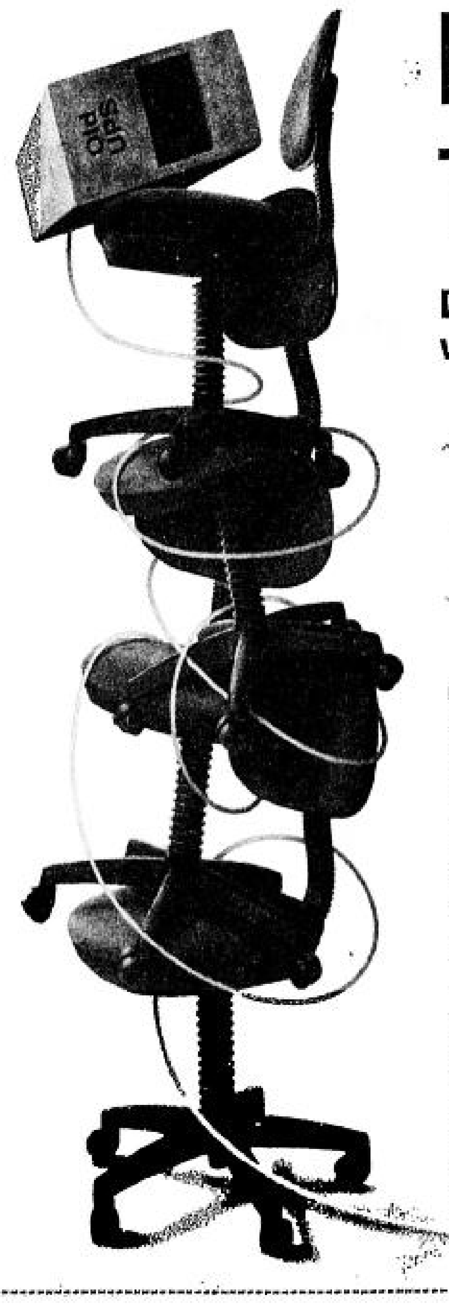

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AIDS scare grips Angeles red-light district

ANGELES CITY—The specter of the deadly Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) gripped anew Fields Avenue, this city's main red-light district, with an estimated 2,000 commercial sex workers.

This came following the sexual trysts here of an American tourist who was confirmed positive for the HIV virus.

Health officials immediately ordered a search for two women bar workers whom the American maintained as sexual partners since he arrived in May and until his voluntary departure last Friday.

The tourist could have infected his partners, said Dr. Teresita Esguerra, the city's social hygiene clinic director.

The American, who hails from Oklahoma, was convinced to leave the country after a test administered by the Department of Health confirmed him positive for the virus, Rodrigo Pedrealba, chief of the Bureau of Immigration in Central Luzon, said.

Pedrealba clarified that the American was not deported. "We convinced him to go since we do not have adequate AIDS treatment facility in the country," he said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Fees high, enrollment down in schools

ENROLLMENT in private schools is dropping due to increasing tuition rates, the militant National Union of Students of the Philippines said yesterday.

"Usually at this time of the month, schools are no longer accepting students because they have no more slots to offer. But now, they even have to put posters in conspicuous places around the campus and nearby communities to entice the youth to enroll in their schools," said Raymond Palatino, NUSP national president.

"The obvious drop of enrollment in many private schools is not really surprising because of the tuition increases made by schools this year," Palatino added.

He said about 367 private schools raised their tuition this school year while "a still undetermined but big number" of schools managed to increase their miscellaneous and laboratory fees.

Palatino added that a proof of declining school populations is the continuing enrollment happening in University Belt and Taft area schools although classes have started on Monday.

He said AMA computer schools started classes on May 28 but enrollment is still ongoing.

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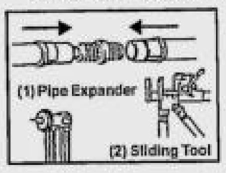

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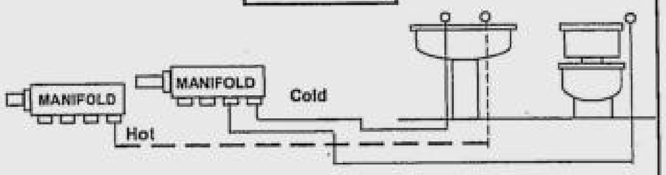

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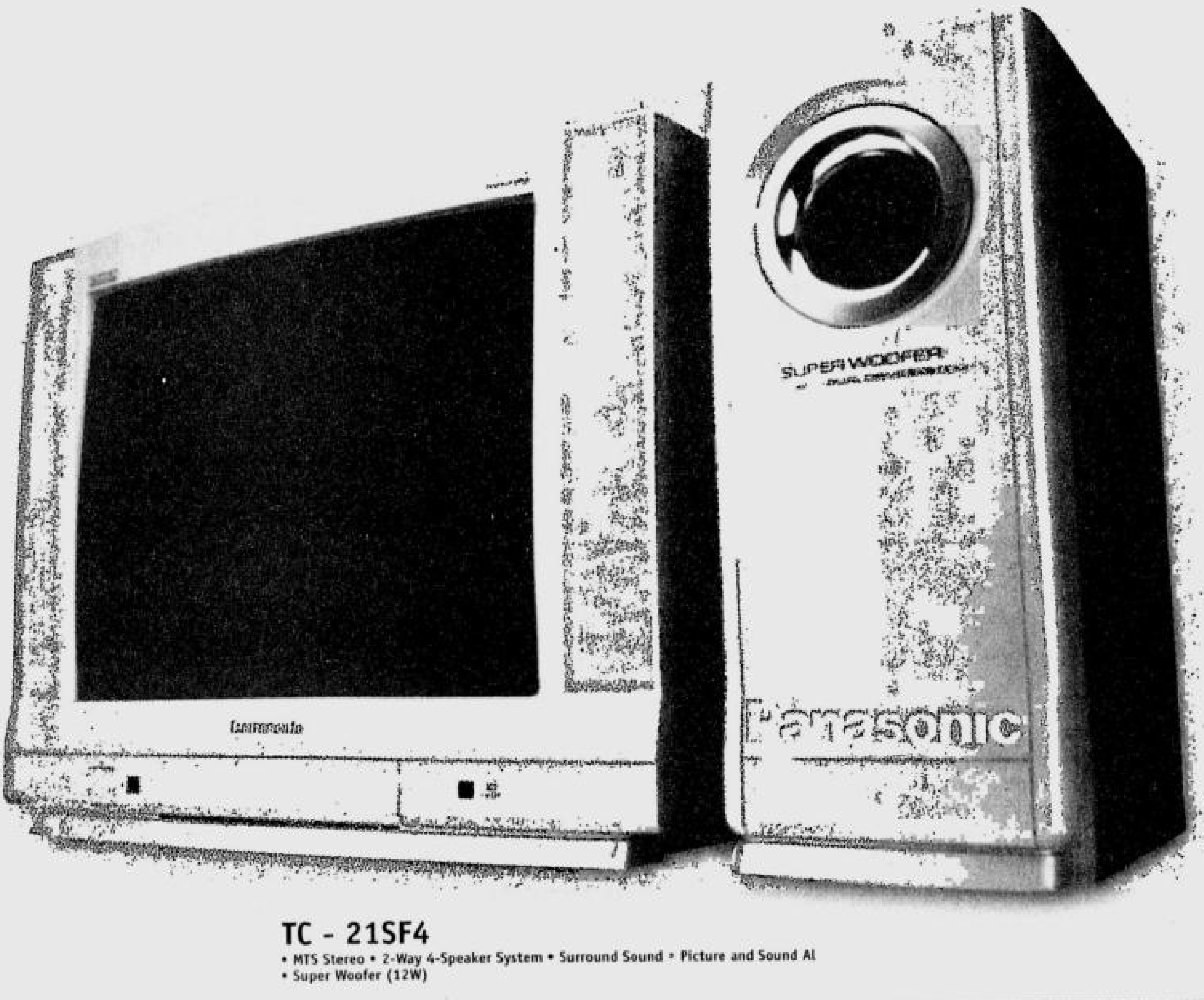

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Standoff in Dinagat

EDITORIAL

THERE'S another hostage crisis going on, whose ending promises to be messier and bloodier than last week's tragic military operation to rescue the Burnham couple and Ediborah Yap—unless reason prevails. But the victim this time is not a foreign tourist or some rich individual but the justice system itself.

Ruben Ecleo Jr., a former mayor of San Jose, Surigao del Norte, stands accused of parricide for the murder of his wife Alona, a senior medical student of Southwestern University in Cebu City last Jan. 5. Alona's decomposing body was found stuffed inside a black garbage bag three days later in the town of Dalaguete in Cebu. Police said she had been strangled to death.

Alona's brother Josebil, who was living with the Ecleo family, told police investigators he overheard his sister and Ecleo quarreling on the night she disappeared. Later that night, Josebil said, he saw Ecleo and his bodyguard Juriven Padero load a black garbage bag into the trunk of Alona's car. Police investigators found blood stains inside the car as well as in the couple's bedroom and toilet.

Relying mainly on Josebil's testimony, government prosecutors charged Ecleo with parricide before the Cebu regional trial court last Jan. 21. The judge ordered his arrest. But almost five months later and after exhausting all legal remedies to get the arrest order recalled, Ecleo remains free.

Ordinarily, serving the warrant would have been routine since the police know where Ecleo is holed up. But the operation has proven to be anything but routine. On May 27, a police team composed of 30 members arrived in San Jose to serve the warrant. They couldn't even come close to where Ecleo is believed to be staying: his family's mansion overlooking the town. Now the police have called in the Army for support and there is a combined force of 200 men ready to spring to action.

The problem is the government forces cannot just march into the compound to get Ecleo. The fugitive from justice is the self-styled "Supreme Master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association, a religious cult that claims to have hundreds of thousands of followers. And in his stronghold on Dinagat Island, thousands of his followers have massed, vowing to die before they would give up their leader. The government forces cannot just shoot their way in and out of the Ecleo compound without risking a bloodbath similar to what happened in Waco, Texas, in 1993, when 90 people were killed after federal agents stormed a compound occupied by the Branch Davidian cult and its leader David Koresh.

Negotiations have proven fruitless. Rep. Glenda Ecleo, after promising so many times to convince her son to yield to the authorities, is now saying that he has left for parts unknown. All her talk about cooperating with the government or letting her son answer the charges in the proper forum is beginning to look like a deliberate attempt to shield the fugitive. It's a mother's instinct, she would probably say. But doesn't the law mean anything to this lawmaker?

For now, all that the authorities can do is rain threats on Ecleo and his followers. But obviously the government cannot let the standoff continue much longer without looking impotent and useless and eroding further our people's faith in our justice system. The Ecleos could be making a fatal blunder if they think they can force the government to back off and let the accused get off the hook without submitting himself to the judgment of the court.

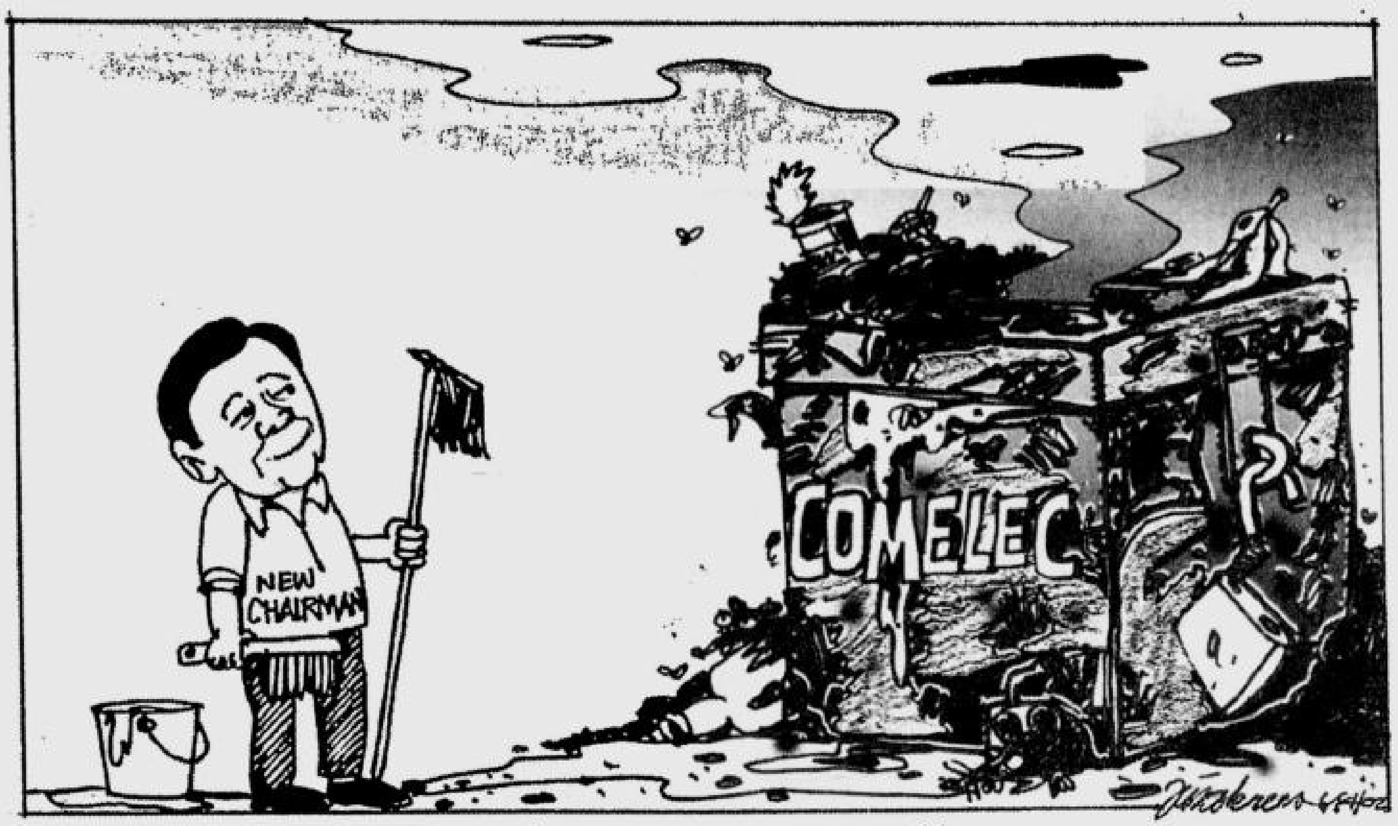
Tiananmen remembered

FOREIGN COMMENT

WITH HONG Kong gripped by World Cup fever, it was reassuring that an estimated 45,000 still managed to turn up at last night's candlelight vigil that marked the crackdown on the democracy movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

As the years go by, fewer people may feel passionate enough to show up at the annual vigil. But this should not be taken as a sign that people have forgotten the scenes of soldiers firing their way into Tiananmen Square. Those scenes will linger forever—particularly for those whose loved ones failed to return after that fateful night.

South China Morning Post (Hong Kong)



June is bursting out all over

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT is amazing how a few days of rain can turn a brown landscape into a green one so completely as if a painter's brush had passed through it. One day the earth was brown with dry grass, dead leaves and almost leafless trees; the next day the grass is suddenly light green as new shoots shoot up between the dead blades of grass. Seedlings poke through the clutter of fallen leaves. And the tree branches which we thought were dead and dry suddenly sprout buds. Like the song says, June is bursting out all over.

My front yard was carpeted by a thick layer of dry acacia leaves only a few days ago, as dead as a drought-ravaged field. Now hundreds of acacia seedlings peek through the leaves, the fleshy parts of the seeds still spread protectively around the tiny leaves. All through summer, the acacia tree had dropped its tamarind-like fruits into the ground. There they had lain quietly, waiting for the first drops of rain to wake up the seeds inside. Now the knocking of the raindrops have roused them and they have sunk their tiny roots into the soft, wet earth and thrust their heads through the thick tangle of leaves to look up at the sun.

I don't know what to do with them. I can't let them grow to adulthood or else my front yard would be a thick forest that will tear up the concrete pavement and the foundations and flooring of my house. But I can't bear to pull them out. They want so much to live. I have no right to snuff out their lives. So anyone who wants to plant acacia trees is welcome to them. And nurseries like the Manila Seedling Bank can transplant them in plastic bags to grow bigger and finally sell them or plant them themselves.

In the adjoining empty lots, there are wild, giant *ipil-ipil* and *aratiles* trees. Now thousands of their seeds are sprouting. The gray ashes of leaf bonfires are suddenly green with waving tiny leaves. The brown *kakawati* twigs that were just sticks in the ground are breaking out with buds. And the *aratiles* trees are preparing to send off more of their offspring. They have broken out with tiny white blossoms and small white butterflies are flocking to their parasol-like crowns. Already, there are green and red berries on some branches.

Before the rains, the boys had just cut the wide-bladed grass in the vacant lots and the ground was as brown as brown can be. Now it is green as green can be that Kermit the frog would be happy to live in; the grass is already knee-high.

You can almost see the landscape change tint every day as you drive by. First, it is the brown of summer. Then it rains at night. The next morning, there is a light green tint among the brown. Then it rains again, and the next morning the green tint is slightly darker and the new blades of grass are longer. After the third night of rain, the green is brighter. Now tree seedlings are pushing up beside the blades of grass and tiny tendrils of vines are waving at you. On the fourth morning, the green is darker and the buds on the tree branches have hung out tiny leaves. In a few more days, the trees would be dark-green, bending under the weight of wet leaves; the vacant lots would be weed-choked again and the workers would be hard put catching up with the grass-cutting.

The moss is not far behind. Already, the concrete walk snaking through the park has a tinge of green with moss which makes it slippery. The moss had lain dormant, too tiny to be seen, during the summer. The first drops of rain woke them up and now they're growing with a vengeance. Ferns are unfurling their fiddlesticks beside the stream. And the water level in the stream has risen and is flowing faster. There were faint stirrings in the water of tiny fish and insects all throughout summer, but now the stirrings are stronger. Already, I can see tadpoles swimming in the water. Soon frogs would be serenading us.

Already, cicadas in the trees are doing that. One of these nights, we will hear the crickets do their concert. Already, I've seen June bugs flying. And on one dark night, we may see the first fireflies flitting again among the treetops.

* * *

With the rains here, it is the best time to plant those fruit trees in the backyard and the shade trees in front. That is why the Manila Seedling Bank has a bargain sale of tree seedlings and saplings. They call it Bagsak Presyo 2002, and it is really *bagsak-presyo*. Guapple, santol and atis seedlings at only P5 per, a 67-percent discount from their original price of P15 per. Guyabano, langka and kasoy seedlings at P7 each, less than half its original price of P17.

Saplings 3 to 6 feet tall are priced slightly higher. Guapple at P20 and the others at P30.

Forest and ornamental tree seedlings are also cheap. Acacia seedlings at P5 each (you can have mine for free); mahogany and narra at P7; bagras, talisay, teak, golden shower and molave at P15; and Palawan cherry at P20.

Asexually propagated seedlings and saplings are priced even higher but they grow faster. There are many species, sizes and prices to choose from.

* * *

KAPIHAN NOTES: Guests at next Monday's Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) forum are Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and AFP Chief of Staff Roy Cimatu. They will talk about the rescue and shootout that resulted in the deaths of Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap and the wounding of Gracia Burnham, and the continuing chase for the remnants of the Abu Sayyaf.

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE:

Seminarian's letter to his father: "Pa, I want to get out of here. *Hirap na hirap na 'ko. Ang daming madre, puro sexy. Baka hindi ako makapigil.*"

Father to son: "*Tiisin mo na, anak. Pag pari ka na, sa 'yo nang lahat 'yan.*"

Other games people play

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I CAN only imagine how it feels to be a French national these days.

If I recall right, their victory during the last World Cup four years ago was celebrated with a fervor normally reserved for epochal events. Not since the landing of allied troops in Normandy had the French turned out into the streets in ecstatic joy. On the day France became world champions, champagne flowed freely and the Champs Élysée rang with singing and dancing.

And now, this. Needing to win two points against Denmark to keep its championship hopes alive, it lost instead by two points to its foe. That picture of Zinedine Zidane, the player who had brought France to rule the soccer world over the last four years, head bowed, the picture of utter helplessness and dejection, said it all. He had come back from the injury list to try to rescue his team, and country, from a fate truly worse than death, but to no avail.

I saw several analysts in ESPN and Star Sports earlier expressing their doubts about the wisdom of his return. You can't just bounce back from an injury and play your usual game. It takes time. More than likely, they said, Zidane would be a liability rather than an asset for France if he played. Alas, they were right. France didn't just get beaten, it got bludgeoned. It was the worst performance by a champion team since 1930, when the competition began. They never won a game and crashed out after the first round.

Your heart goes out to them. It may not be so comprehensible to us, who can't seem to get into the World Cup spirit—people continue to follow doggedly the NBA Finals notwithstanding that it ended the other Monday with the seventh game between LA and Sacramento—but for most of the world, the World Cup isn't just a game, it is life itself. It doesn't just decide winners and losers, it decrees the fate of nations.

If the French celebrated their victory with euphoria comparable to Normandy, you can imagine how they will take this defeat. It will take their philosophers to help them take this philosophically.

I've been watching the games whenever I can, and I have been astonished no end again by the electricity that ripples in the air, or throughout the stands, during the matches. You can almost see the sparks fly. You thank God those matches are being held in South Korea and Japan, where discipline and decorous conduct are taken deathly seriously. So far the riots have taken place outside the games sites, not inside them. There was rioting in Moscow only a few days ago after Russia lost to Japan, which claimed the lives of two people, one of them a cop. I myself still remember the Colombian player who was shot dead by gangsters in Medelín for accidentally deflecting a ball right into his own goal and losing it for his team in a previous World Cup.

No, this isn't just a game for other people. Or if it is, it is one people play for keeps.

Not a bad deal for a game that, if Discovery Channel is to be believed, arose from relative obscurity merely to instill discipline among students. Public schools in England apparently encouraged football in the 19th century—which rules incorporated those of soccer and rugby—to wean students away from truancy and hooliganism, never imagining it would become the earthshaking thing it is today. It was an almost instant success, spawning in the process a body of theological thought that said God was a captain ball inspiring his legions to victory through a magnificent show of esprit de corps. That thought is easy to recognize in the philosophy of some of the exclusive boys' schools in this country.

The downside of its success is fanaticism, often of the murderous variety. I myself have always found it ironic that the one country that would be associated with soccer-related hooliganism is England, a country that prides itself with vast reserves of restraint and civility. I remember once seeing cops spread out full force in one part of Amsterdam in the early 1990s, and wondering if some heinous crime was taking place there. Our guide inquired from one of the cops and told us, "Oh, it's nothing, there's a soccer match going on and there's an English crowd in the stands." The last was meant to be an explanation in itself.

People who scoff at religious fanaticism, particularly as practiced by the Eastern countries, would do well to reflect on their own ways of expressing it.

The upside, well, the heights of striving in the World Cup are a joy to behold. You do not need to be a sports fan to feel the excitement in the games, to find yourself transported to another plane by the games. You need only to be a member of the human race. As striving goes, you can't get any more heroic, indeed superhuman, effort, from even the Olympics itself. This one probably eclipses the Olympics itself in its sheer life-and-death stakes.

Of course you can always wonder how a silly game where players insist on not using one of the most vital parts of their God-given bodies, namely their hands, could cause so many tears and shouts of joy, so much ecstasy and despair. But then you may also always wonder how so silly a thing as human life, handicapped in every way and thrashing about blindly, can produce so much beauty amid ugliness, so much bliss amid despair. Life, like soccer, is a gangly thing in itself. Its beauty lies in what you make of it. Its meaning lies in how you play it. To see that small ball at the end of all your troubles curving in the air, light as a feather and heavy as the weight of the world, slipping through the outstretched hands of someone who is jumping for dear life to catch it: Those are the moments you play for. Those are the moments you live for.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Reprieve from a stronger storm

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

TRANSPORTATION Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez resigned from the Cabinet after the Commission on Appointments had bypassed his appointment for the fifth time last June 3. In accepting the resignation , President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is mistaken if she believes that the resignation will take the heat off the back of her administration over the controversial Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco) contract for the construction of Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

At the close of the last session of the commission, senators who blocked his confirmation made it clear that they would pursue the inquiry into the contract when Congress resumes session on July 22. In the next session, the questions will no longer be raised in the commission, but in proper congressional committees. His resignation raises more questions than it sought to dissipate.

President Macapagal apparently tried to take the wind off the sail of the controversial contract, but what she got is only a reprieve and a stronger storm is building up on the transaction. Secretary Gloria Tan Climaco, presidential adviser for strategic projects, who made a review of the contract—returned to Manila from the United States on June 9 after more than a month's absence.

When she left Manila on May 3, she wrote the commission, which had sent her a subpoena, that she was looking after a sick brother receiving medical treatment. Her excuse might be true, but it did not prevent speculation that she was sent by Malacañang to be conveniently absent while the storm raged in the commission over the confirmation of Alvarez.

Climaco is ready to face the congressional inquiry to answer questions about her report to President Macapagal of her review of the Piatco contract. Earlier, on March 13, 2002, she had sent a letter to Piatco, proposing 28 changes in what is claimed to be "onerous" provisions deemed disadvantageous to the government and to the Filipino public.

In her letter, Climaco sought, among other things, the renegotiation of the $20 terminal fee for departing passengers passing through the Naia 3—a fee double that of the current terminal fee of P550. Climaco began yesterday a round of negotiations with Piatco executives, centered on her 28 proposals. Piatco has opposed most of these proposals, and it is not clear how much pressure the Macapagal administration can assert to rewrite the contract in order to realign it to Climaco's proposals. Climaco began the review last November.

According to my inside sources, an executive of Fraport, the German partner of Piatco and investor in the project, has warned the government that if the President does not help them (Fraport) on problems with local partners and financial loans with banks, "we have documents that can bring down three presidents." The original contract awarding the job to Piatco was signed by the Ramos administration. It went through the Estrada administration which reworked the contract with revisions and amendments.

At least two senior Malacañang officials have been furnished copies of the Climaco report. The key points of the Climaco findings, according to my sources, centered on, first, the inflated costs of the terminal project; and, second, the conflict of interests that arose from the findings that Alvarez had tried to influence the terms of the contract as early as the time when he was a member of the House committee on transportation, and that the Alvarez family-owned Wintrack Builders Inc. was awarded a subcontract for subterranean works at Terminal 3.

The outcome of the renegotiation of the contract by Climaco is far from certain. And even if it were realigned to suit Climaco's proposals, the question remains: Who were responsible for the objectionable provisions? Congress will not be satisfied by the resignation of Alvarez, and its members will press for a deeper inquiry in which Climaco will be a key witness.

Through the resignation of Alvarez, the President appears to be laying the ground to blunt the impact of the controversy. The resignation may be seen as a form of damage control, but it will not drive the heat away from the Palace. A key question assails the President: Why did she decide only now to remove Alvarez from the Cabinet despite the fact that the controversy over the Piatco deal had raged in the press (there has been an intensified word war between Piatco and its opponents in paid advertising space) since November?

The reason she created the oversight body headed by Climaco to review the contract was that she became aware of its controversial aspects as early as last year. It would seem that the President at that time had already recognized the damaging repercussions of the controversy, so she has laid the ground for the defense that her appointment of Climaco is evidence that her administration had nothing to do with the "onerous" provisions that were discovered by Climaco.

If the squalls of the controversy move closer to the Palace, the President, by sacking Alvarez and giving Climaco the go-ahead to renegotiate the contract, could argue that she is not covering up for the deal.

But this will not drive away the question of why she kept on reappointing Alvarez each of the four times his appointment was bypassed by the commission. How far the transaction can be linked to the Palace depends upon the evidence that Congress can squeeze in its hearings after July 22 from witnesses, including Climaco.

A German executive, whom we are not free to identify, has asked: "How far will the President support Climaco?"

A matter of survival

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AN UNUSUAL gathering of show business folk took place last week in Malacañang, with the signing into law of RA 9167, creating the Film Development Council of the Philippines.

The law is premised on the duty of the State to "promote and support the development and growth of the local film industry." Through the council, the law also establishes a "Cinema Evaluation System" through which movies submitted for evaluation are rated for quality and promise, with the producers of favorably rated films given crucial tax breaks that could spell difference between profit and loss.

I'd written previously about this law, after the bi-cameral conference committee passed it with a controversial provision on censorship deleted. By way of background, the House version contained a provision declaring that a film that has been favorably rated "shall not be prohibited from public exhibition." After all, in theory, at least, even if a film has been rated "A," the MTRCB could still prevent its commercial exhibition by giving it an "X" classification.

Critics of the new law declare that a system of material incentives for quality films is not enough to adequately address the many ills bedeviling the dying local film industry. Together with tax breaks, what Filipino filmmakers need to come up with films of "world-class" quality is creative freedom, or at the very least protection from arbitrary censorship.

Did industry leaders who supported the passage of RA 9167 "sell out" their colleagues in the business by sacrificing artistic freedom for tax incentives? And with the President reportedly threatening to veto the bill if it contained this exemption, did the legislature sacrifice its independence by following such "marching orders"?

* * *

OVER LUNCH, three women who worked very hard for the passage of the Film Council law sought to clarify the issues raised as well as to explain what the law contains and what it could do to save the industry from an early demise.

"First of all," says Marichu Vera-Perez Maceda, "the original legislation was limited to tax incentives." The provision on exemption from censorship, she adds, was but a "rider" in the bill, and one that legislators thought was unrelated to the legislation's primary purpose.

Marilou Diaz-Abaya, a film director, says several senators objected to the controversial provision because it stood on shaky legal grounds. After all, a film could be barred from public exhibition for several reasons, not just an "X" classification. "What if the subject of a film sought a restraining order from the courts?," asks Abaya. As some senators put it, if passed, the provision would have tied the hands even of the Supreme Court, if the legal process went all the way there.

But the passage of the law even without the censorship provision, says Laurice Guillen, doesn't mean the industry is giving up the struggle for artistic freedom for filmmakers. "I've always believed the development of the film industry relies on a tripod of measures," she says, "one is tax relief, which we've already achieved, and the other two are relief from censorship and relief from piracy."

* * *

"LET'S fight one battle at a time!" exclaims "Manay" Ichu. The passage of RA 9167 doesn't mean they're giving up on the equally lengthy struggle to pass a law repealing PD 1986 which ironically still governs the legal mechanisms of movie and TV classification. "There's nothing inconsistent in supporting this law and fighting censorship," adds Abaya.

So how exactly will the Film Development Council law guarantee the survival and even growth of the local film industry?

Better incentives to producers to come up with quality films, one of which are significantly reduced amusement taxes for graded films, should result in healthy returns for producers. These in turn should encourage them to produce more quality films, "promote cultural identity and social values" especially for the youth, raise film standards to be globally competitive, lead to the development of related industries, generate more jobs, and even "collect the same if not better tax returns from higher sales here and abroad."

The main mechanism for the granting of tax breaks for quality movies is the Cinema Evaluation Board, composed of 30 members, 20 of whom shall come from the film industry. Voluntarily submitted films shall then be evaluated according to a set of standards and criteria for artistic integrity. Films which obtain a grade of "A" shall be entitled to an incentive equivalent to 100 percent of the amusement tax collected, while grade "B" films shall be entitled to 65 percent of the amusement tax. And unlike in previous years when the tax rebates were sourced from local governments, under the new law, the deductions and remittances will come directly from theater owners and operators who will turn these over to the council for remitting to the producers.

* * *

"YOU should not trivialize" the economic benefits of the new law, stresses Guillen. For the entire industry, but especially for its most lowly workers, it has become a matter of survival. Anything that encourages producers to keep making movies, and to invest in and take risks with "quality" movies, would be welcomed by an industry that has fallen so far and so fast its members hardly know what hit them.

All the incentives available to filmmakers would be useless, though, unless we the audience decide to support quality films ourselves. We may rant and rave about "stupid" quickies, or formula-obsessed producers, but unless we begin watching movies that strive to rise above commercialism, we'll never get to see the movies we deserve.

Reading and heroes

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LITERACY is but one of many things we take for granted every day. More often than not, it is only when freedom of mind and body is threatened that we realize how we can be liberated by reading. In the five years that I was in a Benedictine monastery, one of the things we practiced was a meditative reading called *lectio divina* (literally, "holy reading"). In monastic culture, reading was more formative than informative. We read slowly, reflected on what was read, or simply enjoyed listening to what was called "the voice of the pages." We read orally—not too loud so as not to disturb another—so that words on a page were incarnated in our vocal chords; this voice of the pages entering our ears where it traveled either to our brain, or more importantly vertically downwards to touch the heart.

Reading has the power to change both mind and heart. This is why reading had to be controlled in the past—and in many ways even in the present. Reading provides the furniture in our minds. Reading can spell the difference between independence and slavery; liberation and isolation. Without reading, our history would have turned out so much differently. Reading made and shaped our heroes. Reading liberates.

For the past two months I have been visiting historical shrines and I realized that many of our heroes were readers: Rizal, Bonifacio, Jacinto, Mabini, the Luna brothers, etc. It has been said, that Aguinaldo, the college dropout did not read. But tucked away in a little room in his home in Kawit, in a place that was used by musicians who provided live music into his living room, is a modest collection of books and periodicals that kept Aguinaldo company in his old age. One would think that in the thick of the revolution and the Filipino-American War, Aguinaldo had no time to read but at least he surrounded himself with advisers who did read. If the mind is like a house, then books that have been read are the furniture of the mind. Look at the furniture in someone's living room and you can get an inkling into what he or she is like.

Jose Rizal reputedly owned over 2,000 books. He even did his own card catalogue, leaving behind about 351 slips of paper with bibliographic information in his own handwriting. Rizal read a lot of French literature and particularly liked Dumas' "Three Musketeers" and "Count of Montecristo," whose shadows we see in "El Filibusterismo." He also read Moliere, Voltaire, Montequieu and Zola. He was not confined to prose though, being a poet by nature he read Musset's poems and his interest in history drove him to read Napoleon's memoirs, written when he was in exile in St. Helene. Surely, this book came in handy when he himself was exiled to far-off Dapitan from 1892-1896. Rizal read Beaumarchais' "Barber of Seville" and "Marriage of Figaro" which we know more as operas today than dangerous literary works in its time. Did Rizal read these books before he saw the operas or vice-versa? These days we watch the movie version first before sitting down to read the book.

Most of Rizal's books were in Spanish translation though in later life he read in the original languages: English, French and German. Thus, he translated five of Hans Christian Andersen's fairy tales from the original German into Tagalog and illustrated these for his nephews and nieces: "Ang Puno ng Pino (The Pine Tree)"; "Si Gahinlalaki (Thumbelina)"; "Ang Pangit na Sisiu ng Pato (Ugly Duckling)"; "Ang Batang Babai Mai Dalang Sakafuego (Little Match Girl)" and I don't quite know how to translate, "Ang Sugu." For his brother Paciano he translated "William Tell," using this as an example on the reforms he wanted on Tagalog orthography.

The list of books Rizal read is quite varied. Aside from literature Rizal read many pragmatic books like: guidebooks to the different places he visited as a tourist; "Las Maravillas de Electricidad"; a six-volume work "Studies of Birds"; Nasau Lee's "Tea Cultivation, Cotton and other Agricultural Experiments in India"; Baltet's "The Art of Grafting and Budding"; Buenet's "Drawings and Ornaments of Architecture" and Money's "Java or How to Manage a Colony."

Rizal, however, is often dismissed by radicals as a useless man of ideas. Andres Bonifacio, another voracious reader, if we are to believe Pio Valenzuela, is supposed to have translated ideas into action. When Bonifacio heard that Rizal was against the planned outbreak of the revolution, he is quoted to have said that not all things can be learned in libraries, or words to that effect. Fortunately, we are now veering away from the stereotype image of Bonifacio as an illiterate *bodeguero* from Tondo. Well, that bodega contained: "Lives of the Presidents of the United States" (a book Rizal also read), a two-volume "History of the French Revolution" (that inspired our own) "La Solidaridad," Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere," "El Filibusterismo," and the Rizal edition of Morga's "Sucesos de las Islas Filipinas" (when mere possession of these was considered a crime), "Les Misérables" by Victor Hugo, and the "Wandering Jew" by Eugene Sue (Rizal also read this thick book). Valenzuela says, "Bonifacio went without sleep at night in order to read...and used to talk about the French Revolution."

Rizal and Bonifacio, two sides of the same coin. Both inspired and developed into heroes by reading.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Memories of war

HIGH BLOOD

Cecilia Tobias Lopez

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. **—Ed.**

WORLD War II may have receded in the dimming memories of old age but some experiences are beyond forgetting. Thoughts of that war rise, unsummoned, at the oddest times, usually in the dead of night when one is held in the grip of insomnia. Certain things trigger the memories—the droning of a plane, a sudden burst of flames, a firecracker exploded by some thoughtless soul.

The war caught us in Mindanao, so raw and wild in those days, and a place of exile for problem sons and a haven for adventurers, opportunists and characters escaping from a shady past. The provincial commander of Davao then, Gen. Simeon de Jesus, was my grandfather's cousin, and the old man thought it would be a good idea to send my father and his young family over to the general for first-hand lessons in discipline, independence and productiveness. I don't remember life in the lumber camp as I was very young then, but my mother told me stories about encounters with a variety of deadly snakes, learning to deal with an assortment of characters that peopled the camp and numerous disasters that marked her transition from someone who couldn't even cook rice to the splendid cook that she ultimately became. A Pampangueña who grew up on the delicacies that her mother regularly turned out from her kitchen, my mother gagged at the burned rice and tinned food that comprised her early culinary efforts. After buckets of tears and a lengthy trial and error period, she learned to cook—and with a vengeance. As far as my clan is concerned, no one can hold a candle to my mother's cooking.

Our life in the lumber camp ended when word got around that the Japanese had arrived. General De Jesus decided that it was best for us to get out of Davao as the Japanese presence was already apparent in the province. My father decided to take us to Cotabato where his eldest sister had settled with her husband, along with tenants she had recruited from among my grandfather's farmlands in Nueva Ecija. Life was uneventful for the first few months. And then the nightmare began. Co-existence between the Christian settlers and the Muslims was hardly peaceful and simmering resentments would break out in violence every now and then. One infamous incident took place in a marketplace when guerrillas rounded up Muslims, including a *datu* friend of my aunt and his pregnant wife, lined them up and shot them.

When the Japanese came to Cotabato, some Muslims found cause with them and took it upon themselves to point out the locations of guerrillas to the enemy. Since my uncle and his eldest son, along with some neighbors, belonged to a guerrilla unit, we found ourselves constantly on the run, retreating deeper and deeper into the jungles.

Evacuation

I remember one experience vividly. We were ordered to evacuate one early morning and my father and eldest sister had gone ahead with sacks of rice and most of our stuff loaded on a cart. My mother, younger brother and I were to follow immediately, guided by one of my guerrilla cousins. Three times during our run, my mother went back to our house to get some tools for survival—salt, blankets, a mosquito net, matches, etc. My cousin had to physically restrain her when she tried to go back a fourth time since the Japanese were already closing in on us. Our neighbors' houses were already being torched and several times we had to hit the ground because bullets were flying over our heads. My mother lamented that she had not cut the pig free and it might get burned.

Fleeing for our lives became a routine. As soon as we heard the cry: "The Japs are coming! The Japs are coming!", we'd grab the closest thing on hand and run deep into the jungle, through crocodile-infested swamps, snakes slithering among the dead leaves and dropping from trees and God knows what other deadly creatures. When we felt it was safe enough, we'd rest at some abandoned hut or under the trees. In the morning, we'd find ourselves lying on layers of bird or bat droppings.

Curiously, during this entire period of this bizarre existence, I never saw the face of the enemy. We had to get to Zamboanga before I saw my first Japanese soldier. Toward the close of the war, my grandfather imagined that he was about to face his Maker and decided to summon the prodigal son home. We boarded a *kumpit*, a sailing vessel slightly bigger than a banca manned by Muslims. We were not to know until much later that so many travelers in such trips never got to their destinations because their vessels were manned by pirates. God, in His wisdom and compassion, had put us in the hands of a decent, legitimate operator, the son of a *datu* no less, who got us as far as Zamboanga after nine grueling days in a seemingly endless sea. In Zamboanga, the Japanese stopped us from proceeding to Manila. The Americans had come.

Cabatos of Tetuan

The Zamboanga episode is worth a story by itself. A few lines would not do justice to the uniqueness of our experiences in this special place. But one incident continues to haunt me.

The Japanese had been driven out of the province. My family made temporary living arrangements in Zamboanga City preparatory to returning to Manila. A wonderful family, the Cabatos of Tetuan, took us under their wing from the moment these *"estranjeros"* set foot in Zamboanga. I cannot imagine how we would have survived without their kindness.

Late one night, I awakened to the droning of an airplane. Not too long after, there was a tremendous crash, followed by several explosions. We knew the drill—head straight for the dugouts. We thought that a stray Japanese plane was on the attack. After a long wait, we went back to the house. It was then that we found out what really happened. An American bomber had crashed into a house not too far from where we were staying, almost wiping out an entire family living there. A brother and a sister, both Manila students at the outbreak of the war, had gotten out to safety. But upon realizing that some members of the family were still in the house, they had gone back to save them. An exploding bomb aborted their heroic effort and killed them. How ironic that after surviving four years of a cruel war, these two lovely people and their loved ones should die so tragically, not in the hands of the enemy but because of a malfunctioning machine of the liberators.

To this day, the droning of an airplane in the dead of night sends a shiver of fear through me and ties up my guts. Who was it who said "War is hell"? Nothing can be truer. That war is now a distant memory, its viciousness dimmed somewhat by time. But poor Mindanao. It is still in the grip of hell.

Cecilia Tobias Lopez, 64, is a retired University of the Philippines employee now living in Parañaque City where she runs a sari-sari store and writes when the spirit moves her.

Sugar-coated privatization of water services

THE FREEDOM from Debt Coalition (FDC) strongly opposes the rate-rebasing process currently being undertaken by the Metropolitan Water Services and Sewerage System (MWSS), which would consequently result in exorbitant water rates.

The Lopez-owned Maynilad Water Services Inc. is asking for a P30/cubic meter water tariff, or double its current charge of P15.46/cu m. The Ayala-owned Manila Water Co. Inc., on the other hand, intends to raise its rates from P6.75/cu m to about P25/cu m, or an increase of about 400 percent!

The sky-high water rates will add up to the already insupportable burden consumers are made to bear for the use of basic utilities. Not only do consumers have to contend with the expensive purchased power adjustment (PPA) charges, they would now have to pay a high price for water—a basic human need for survival.

It was in October last year when Maynilad and Manila Water were allowed drastic tariff increases. To accommodate Maynilad's petition for a rate hike, the Macapagal administration conceded to amending the 1997 concession agreements between the MWSS and the water firms. The government's action resulted in tariff increases as the concessionaires were granted (1) accelerated-extraordinary price adjustment; (2) foreign currency differential adjustment; and (3) special transitory mechanism. Hence, Maynilad's tariff jumped from P6.58/cu m in October 2001 to the current P15.46/cu m. Meanwhile, Manila Water's rates increased from P3.22/cu m to P6.75/cu m.

There was no acceptable reason for amending the contracts and imposing huge increases. But the Macapagal administration opted to bail out the Lopezes at the expense of the consumers. Furthermore, it granted the same privileges to the Ayalas when there was absolutely no compelling reason to do so.

Also, as part of the contract amendments, a rate rebasing process is being undertaken by the MWSS to determine the new rates that will be imposed come January 2003. Although this process has profound consequences in terms of scaling down the obligations of the water companies and in terms of sudden rate increases, there has been no public disclosure on the issue.

The FDC calls on the MWSS board and regulatory office to reject the proposed rates of Maynilad and Manila Water. We call on the MWSS officials to stop catering to the greed and opportunism of big business. We ask them to perform their duty as government officials, and protect public interest over and above other vested interests.

Five years after the MWSS' privatization, we can see that it was an initiative that was sugar-coated with promises of low rates and better services. But the sugar-coating has eroded, revealing a bitter pill that is now being shoved down our throats. The water rate hikes already reverse the "gains" of privatization being touted by its advocates. Safe water remains inaccessible to many villages and urban poor communities, and water services continue to be inefficient.

We call on the Macapagal administration to seriously undertake a review of the MWSS privatization. It is high time that the government's privatization efforts are reviewed and evaluated—before they bury people into deeper misery.

—LIDY NACPIL, secretary general, Freedom from Debt Coalition, 34 Matiaga St., Central District, QC

Who speaks for the unborn?

THE ARTICLES of Rina Jimenez-David last April 12 and 13 criticized the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) for de-listing Postinor as an abortifacient. Postinor acts by preventing implantation of the fertilized ovum in the uterus, mainly by cutting off the supply of progesterone and triggering menstruation.

She said that "if the fertilized ovum is not able to implant itself in the uterine lining, then there is no pregnancy to speak of, either." And this was the reason she cited for arguing that Postinor should not be de-listed or banned since, without a pregnancy to speak of, Postinor is not an abortifacient. She also defended the use of Postinor by women who are victims of rape, incest and domestic violence.

I think the BFAD made the right decision for the following reasons:

1. It is always better to be on the safe side, especially since we are talking about such a grave matter as abortion. David herself pointed out that there is no conclusion yet to the debate as to when pregnancy begins, and consequently when abortion happens. Until this debate has been settled with finality, we have to exercise extreme prudence and be on the "safe" side, ensuring that no abortion takes place in case of the slightest doubt as to when pregnancy begins.

I agree with the BFAD's position that human life begins at the moment of conception, which is the union of the sperm and the egg. As surely as day follows night, barring any abnormalities or the introduction of chemical/mechanical/physical means, the fertilized ovum will be implanted in the uterus, and the baby proceeds to develop. What if in the future, everyone agrees with this view? Then, so many abortions would already have taken place due to Postinor!

2. Let us not use selective compassion. I admire David for fighting to protect the rights of women who are victims of rape, incest, violence and abuse. However, our compassion for these women should be weighed against the true compassion of protecting human life. This is the long-term view that looks at the common good. Yes, not having recourse to Postinor may seem harsh to the abused women who get pregnant as a result of abuse. However, the weakening of the value of human life for the sake of a few—even if this is for the best of intentions—is not compassionate.

3. Who is taking the side of the unborn? David posed a rhetorical question: Were the women, who are the major stakeholders in this issue, heard in the course of the BFAD review process? My question is: Who is hearing the side of the unborn? Yes, very sadly, women are abused every day. And it is good that there are groups that work with these survivors of gender-based violence. But the weakest, most defenseless members of our society—the unborn children—are also coming under attack from all sides. Who is standing up for these little ones who have no voice? Who is asking them if Postinor should be approved, even if there is the possibility, or worse, certainty, that they will be aborted? I believe the BFAD has stood up for them.

Who now is playing games with the unborn children's lives?

—CAROL ANNE TANSINGCO, Lot 2 Block 13 Seville St., BF Garden Homes Rio, Las Piñas City

What do you think of the death of the Abu Sayyaf hostages?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

("Voices on INQ7.net" is a weekly round-up of comments selected from those posted by thousands of Filipinos, here and overseas, on the Discussion message boards of INQ7.net, the online news website of the INQUIRER and GMA-7. To participate, register at http://discussions.inq7.net/)

WE never allowed the Americans to rescue the hostages, and now that two out of the three of them died, what good did we get from clinging to our seemingly edifying "national sense of pride"?—**raprap**

* * *

The deaths of Martin Burnham and Ediborah Yap could happen to anyone under the circumstances.

I want to send this short message to our most senior government officials. Mindanao is our second largest island and yet, over half a century after our independence from the United States, there is still little progress in terms of infrastructures on this island. For as long as Mindanao's wealth of natural resources is mismanaged and this wealth is not spent on the development of this place, I can assure you there will be no peace in Mindanao.—**rosaurof**

* * *

It was very upsetting to wake up and hear about the death of Mr. Burnham and Ms Yap. Although I'm glad that Mrs. Burnham is alive and did not sustain a life-threatening wound, I am disappointed that not all three were rescued.

I realize that it must have been a very difficult mission but if the reports are true that US troops weren't involved in the operation, I cannot help but wonder if the results would have been different if US troops took part in the actual battle on the ground to rescue the Burnhams.—**Doreen**

* * *

That's expected. Look what happened to the boy at Philtranco. They suffered the same fate.

Grandstanding by Gloria and her generals will always result in situations like this. Gloria said "We will crush you." I think she is saying that to the hostages, not to the Abus.

Now they are in eternal peace. Who's next?—**joebongi1**

* * *

It has come full circle, and I hope we can learn from this episode. We can always wish for the Abu Sayyaf's death, but how many lives will it take before we can rest assured that no one will harm us? I will remain an observer, but please do crush those bandits, and let's talk forgiveness later.—**paulie mora**

* * *

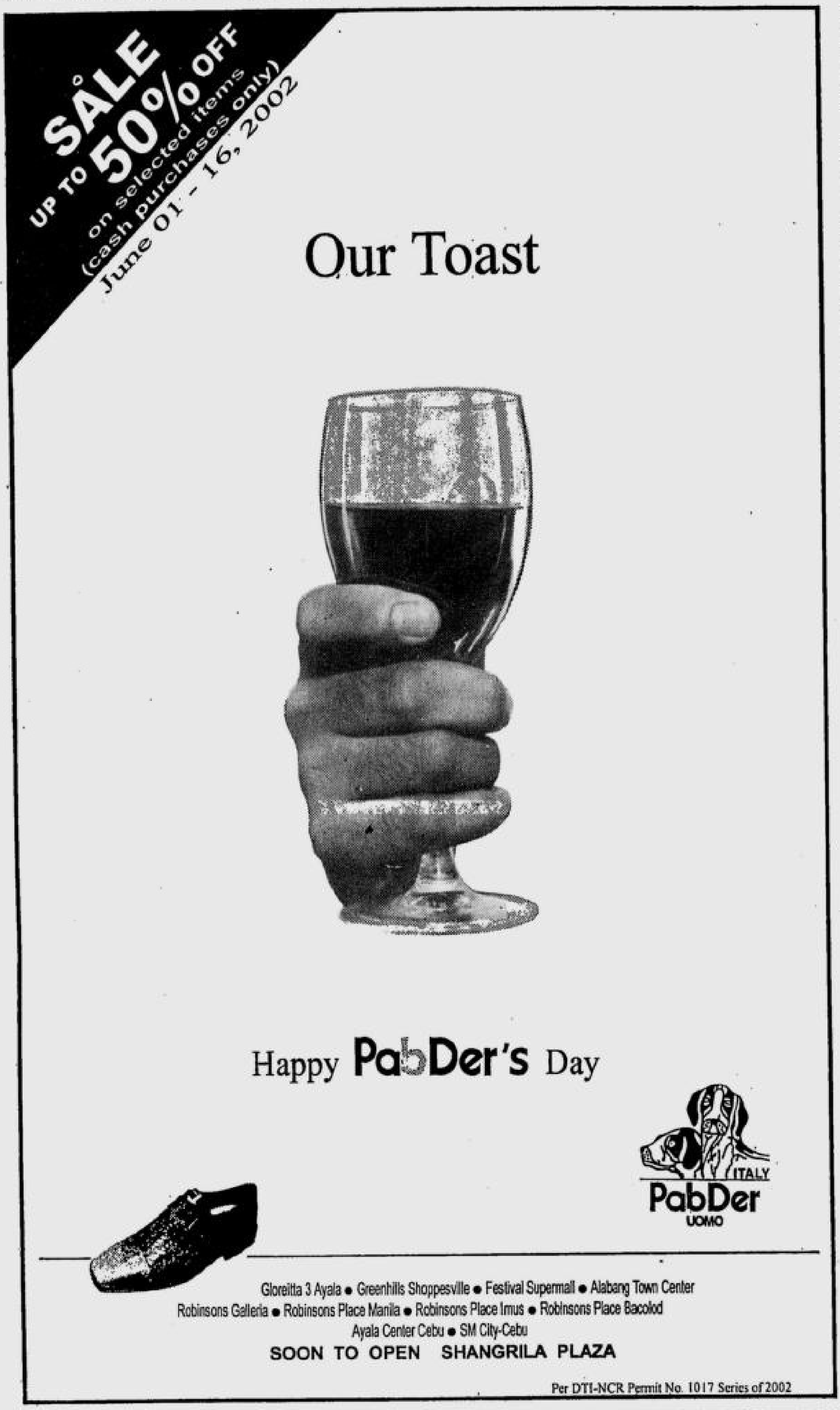
My heart and prayers go out to the families of Martin Burnham and Deborah Yap. Martin loved the Filipino people and gave his life to tell them that Jesus loved them and died on the cross to save them from their sins. The Bible says that no greater love has a person, than to lay down his life for another.—**LifeCounselor**

* * *

There will be more Burnhams and Yaps in the future, if the military does not admit that there is corruption in its ranks and then do something about it instead of covering it up. And I am not talking about the foot soldiers only. Some officers are the problem in the AFP.—**ryq**

* * *

The operation was a partial success in the sense that Gracia Burnham was rescued amid the helter-skelter that ensued in the encounter with the bandits. Still, there was that strong probability of Mrs. Burnham getting killed, just like her husband, Martin, and the nurse, Ediborah Yap. As military planners are wont to suggest, albeit recklessly at times, "collateral damage" is unavoidable.—**rady1976**



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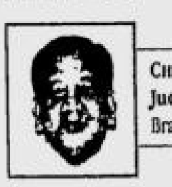
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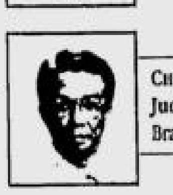
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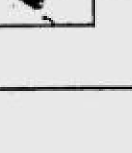
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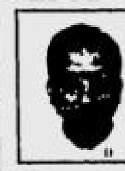
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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

World leaders move to counter terror

LISBON—As officials from around the world met in Lisbon to coordinate their battle against terrorism, US and European security services were on high alert amid fears of a new wave of al-Qaida attacks against Western targets.

The news that a US citizen is suspected of planning to set off a radiation-laced "dirty bomb" together with the dismantling of an al-Qaida network believed to be preparing attacks against NATO ships in the Strait of Gibraltar has led Western intelligence heads to believe that al-Qaida is still a serious threat despite its heavy losses in Afghanistan.

NATO Secretary General George Robertson on Wednesday told the Lisbon meeting chaired by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and also attended by officials from the United Nations, the European Union and the Council of Europe, that "a world effort" was needed "to tackle a world threat."

Earlier, US President George W. Bush ordered a full-scale manhunt for terrorists connected to Abdullah al-Muhajir, the American accused of plotting to set-off a radioactive "dirty bomb."

"We will run down every lead, every hint," Bush said.

US fears that al-Muhajir was merely the tip of a potentially lethal terrorist iceberg appeared to be confirmed with the arrest this week of two men in Pakistan suspected of links to the alleged "dirty bomb" plotter.

Intelligence sources said al-Muhajir, born Jose Padilla, had been in Pakistan before flying to the US where he was seized at Chicago's O'Hare international airport on May 8.

A radioactive or dirty bomb is a conventional explosive device containing radioactive material toxic to humans. It is fatal to people near the blast and is seen as an effective way to spread panic.

This week has already seen a number of reports which have confirmed the presence of operatives of al-Qaida, the network led by Osama bin Laden, the chief suspect in the September 11 attacks in the United States and in various centers around the world.

On Tuesday, Moroccan security services announced they had dismantled an al-Qaida cell suspected of preparing attacks against the country and on NATO ships in the Strait of Gibraltar.

Three Saudi nationals, members of the cell believed to be connected to al-Qaida, had been preparing "terrorist acts in the interior of the country" and against western ships transiting the Strait of Gibraltar, Morocco's interior ministry said in a statement.

Sources close to the investigation had earlier said the men were picked up in mid-May and allegedly confessed to planning to use Zodiac inflatable boats packed with explosives against US and allied warships.

That plan has particularly raised concern among security sources in the US, cognizant that it resembled a suicide attack against the American destroyer USS Cole in Yemen on October 12, 2000, which killed 17 servicemen. That attack was also claimed by al-Qaida. *AFP*

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Karzai election expected at Loya Jirga

KABUL—Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai was expected to be finally elected head of state Thursday after heated debate among delegates to the Loya Jirga grand assembly delayed his coronation.

Karzai was expected to face challenges from two delegates, but neither was expected to win more than a handful of votes after the interim leader garnered support from across the Afghan political divide.

However, delegates at the meeting to choose a new government for Afghanistan have already shown a disregard for the script, with Wednesday's proceedings slowed down by heated debate on everything from warlords to religion.

The day's session ended some nine hours after its scheduled 5:00 p.m. closing time with the election of a chairman of the grand assembly, one of the first items on the day's agenda. No vote was taken on the head of state position despite its appearance on the day's agenda.

Karzai's chief advisor Ashraf Ghani, who is also a delegate, said late Wednesday that he expected events to gather pace after the election of the Loya Jirga chairman, tipped to be Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar who was the head of the assembly's organizing committee.

"People really wanted to talk and that's meant a certain degree of postponement. I hope that once the election of the chairman of the Loya Jirga is over we can proceed with much more determination," he said.

Ghani told AFP that he expected two challenges to Karzai—one from female delegate Massouda Jalal and another from Ahmadullah Wejdani, a little-known delegate from eastern Nuristan province.

The more than 1,500 delegates gathered in a giant marquee at Kabul Polytechnic made the most of their opportunity Wednesday to air grievances pent up over more than two decades of Soviet occupation, civil war and rule by the hardline Taliban regime.

Abdullah Abdullah, the foreign minister of the interim administration which will also be replaced by Loya Jirga delegates, said that some of the interventions from the floor had been less than fair but demonstrated the desire of people to have their voices heard.

"Of course there were a few statements that could be construed as provocative, but the overwhelming support was for national unity and the success of the Loya Jirga," he said.

"After two decades of war, the people of Afghanistan are expressing their views clearly."

Wali Masood, a delegate and the brother of the late Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Masood, also said the gathering had so far seen a "full expression of national unity and expression of the pride and confidence of the Afghans to talk about the different dimensions of Afghan issues."

The European Union's envoy to Afghanistan, Klaus Peter Klaiber said the first two days of the Loya Jirga augured well for the future.

"It's Afghanistan and the Afghan people who should decide their future. I think the beginning of the Loya Jirga shows this has started." **AFP**

US plane crashes; 3 killed

WASHINGTON—A US Air Force MC-130 transport plane crashed in Afghanistan with 10 people aboard, killing three and leaving seven with injuries, the US Defense Department said Wednesday.

"The remaining three service members from today's MC-130 crash in Afghanistan were killed in the accident," the US Central Command, which controls US military operations in Afghanistan, said in a statement from its Tampa, Florida headquarters.

"Remains have been recovered and will be prepared for shipment back to the United States. Names are being withheld pending next of kin notification."

The command center said earlier Wednesday that the seven survivors "have been transferred to the medical facility at Kandahar for treatment."

The plane crashed on takeoff "near the Bande Sardeh dam," approximately 56 kilometers (35 miles) southwest of Gardez in Paktia province, according to a brief statement issued by the Pentagon.

The Afghan official Bakhtar Information Agency said the plane crashed Wednesday night due to "apparently technical faults." **AFP**

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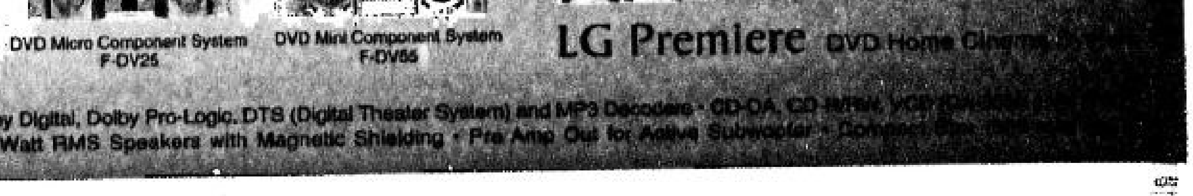

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Israel ends siege of Arafat compound

RAMALLAH—Israeli troops withdrew from positions around Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's battered compound and evacuated Ramallah late Wednesday, but continue to surround the West Bank city following a three-day re-occupation, Israeli military sources said.

"The army has ended the evacuation operation from Ramallah, but continues to encircle the city to be ready to enter again if required for security reasons," one source told AFP.

Scores of Israeli tanks and armored vehicles re-occupied Ramallah early Monday in their largest incursion in weeks and arrested more than 60 people.

Israeli bulldozers had used rubble and car wrecks to seal off Arafat's compound in the city, which was battered by a short but ferocious tank attack last week and a five-week siege that ended in early May.

"The Israeli army has evacuated the Muqataa area," Arafat's top advisor, Nabil Abu Rudeina, said late Wednesday, using the nickname for Arafat's battered headquarters.

"This withdrawal is the result of international efforts and notably those of Europe, as well as contacts made with the United States to end this siege."

Israeli troops however are still encircling other West Bank towns after the latest Palestinian suicide bombing Tuesday night which killed a 15-year-old Israeli girl and wounded 14 people at a restaurant north of Tel Aviv.

The latest military movements come amid high-level international talks on the crisis which have been marked by a tougher US line against Arafat, whom Israel is lobbying to have sidelined as a peace partner.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met briefly with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in London after a two-day visit to the United States, where he won warm support from US President George W. Bush.

A Downing Street spokesman said Blair had urged the hardline Israeli leader to quickly relaunch the Middle East peace process. ***AFP***

Confusion over US Mideast policy deepens

WASHINGTON—Confusion over US policy toward the Middle East deepened on Wednesday as the White House distanced itself from an idea mentioned by Secretary of State Colin Powell for establishing a provisional Palestinian state.

With President George W. Bush preparing in the near future, probably next week, to outline a possible road map to peace negotiations, Powell was quoted on Wednesday as telling the Arabic daily newspaper al-Hayat that a provisional Palestinian state was a possibility.

In order ultimately to set up a state called Palestine, Powell was quoted as saying, Bush "knows that to get to that vision it may be necessary to have a provisional state, an interim step; it may take several steps to get there."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer made clear that Bush had not signed on to the idea.

He said such a state was one among many ideas that Bush is receiving in his consultations with Arab and Israeli leaders as he seeks a way to end Palestinian suicide bombings against Israeli targets, end Israeli incursions into Palestinian areas, and establish a Palestinian state.

"It's reflective of a variety of pieces of advice that people in the government are paid to listen to, from whatever source they may originally derive," Fleischer told reporters.

Powell was asked about the idea as he flew to a G-8 meeting of foreign ministers in Canada.

"I did not say there would be a state. I said these are the ideas that are out there," he said. "I'm just trying to lay out to you the range of ideas that are out there, the issues that the president is examining."

Asked about details of a possible transitional state, he said: "That's a question that will have to be answered but if it's going to be a state it will have to have some structure. It will have to have something that looks like territory even though it may not be perfectly defined forever."

In Canada later, Powell was asked whether there was a disconnect between his remark that the idea of a temporary state was a consistent element in discussions and Fleischer's comment that Bush got advice from various people on the issue.

"Ari's absolutely accurate. There's no distance or space here. The concept of final political settlement and provisional interim status has been part of the dialogue for months," Powell told reporters. ***Reuters***

Ex-Playboy girl edges closer to her millions

LOS ANGELES—A federal judge ruled Wednesday that he would not block an $88.9 million inheritance award to former Playboy Playmate Anna Nicole Smith unless the son of her late tycoon husband could post a bond for half that amount.

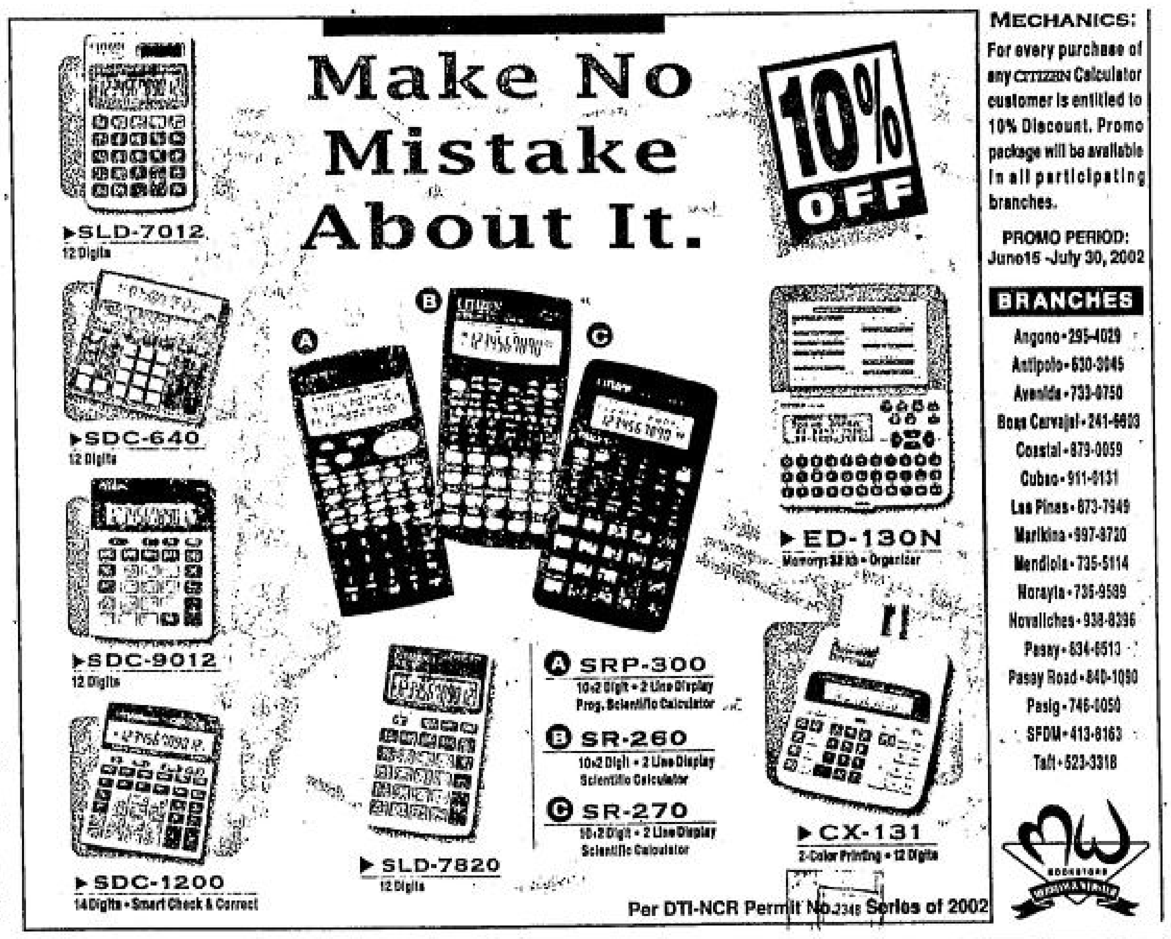
In a decision which moved Smith closer to claiming her fortune, US District Court Judge David Owen Carter said E. Pierce Marshall would have to guarantee some payment to Smith if he loses the appeal.

Pierce Marshall has bitterly contested his 90-year-old father's decision to leave his oil millions to Smith—a 26-year-old topless dancer he met and married just 14 months before his death in 1995.

His lawyer has said he could post no more than a $3 million bond.

Smith's attorney Philip Boesch told reporters he would start trying to collect on behalf of his client, whose fairy tale progress from nudie pin-up to wealthy heiress has made her into a minor pop celebrity.

Smith won a six-year court battle with Marshall in March after Carter ruled that the oil tycoon's son had tried to rob Smith of her rightful inheritance by mounting a campaign of deceit and dishonesty. ***Reuters***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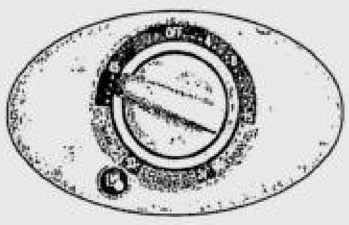

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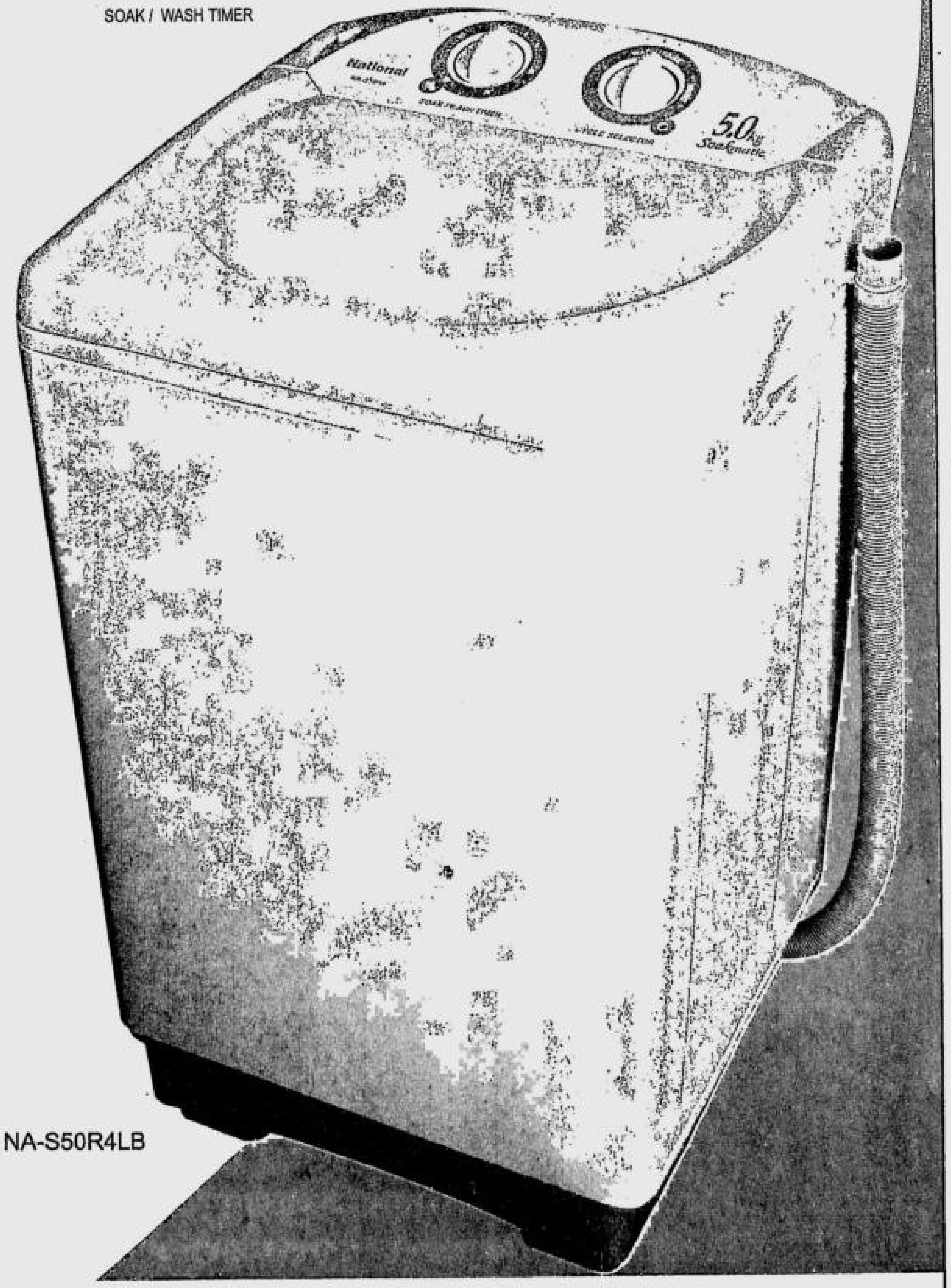

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Biggest wildfire in Colorado

DENVER—The biggest wildfire in Colorado history, its smoke visible from outer space, defied all attempts to contain it on Wednesday as gusting winds pushed it into new territory full of fresh fuel.

The 90,000 acre (36,000 hectare) Hayman fire, named for the spot where it is believed to have started on Saturday, has already destroyed 21 homes and sent thousands of residents packing with their valuables even before mandatory evacuation orders were issued.

The fire, raging about 90 km southwest of Denver, was moving in a southwesterly to westerly direction, veering away from Denver but toward new terrain full of dry and diseased trees, US Forest Service spokeswoman Trish Aspland said.

Besides the buildings already destroyed, 3,000 structures were still threatened, 2,500 homes had been evacuated and as many as 40,000 residents could be asked to leave within the next couple of days if the fire continues to burn out of control, Aspland said.

The fire is raging in parts of four counties—Jefferson, Douglas, Teller and Park—a scenic area that has seen major development in the past decade. Houses have been erected in places where wildlife once roamed.

Firefighters from around the United States are being sent to Colorado to battle the blaze believed to have been caused by an illegal campfire.

"The Hayman fire is the No. 1 fire in the nation," Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Joe Allbaugh said. "You know this is a serious fire when astronauts in the space shuttle are watching this." **Reuters**

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Across the NATION

Assistant Editor **Tony Bergonia**

Cops can't arrest fugitive cult head

DINAGAT ISLAND, Surigao del Norte—Parricide suspect Ruben Ecleo Jr. has remained free despite the deployment of a large contingent from the police, the Army and the Philippine Air Force here.

Chief Supt. Alberto Olario, Caraga regional police director, said they were having difficulty in arresting Ecleo, who is being sought on charges of killing his wife Alona Bacolod in Cebu early this year, because he is being protected by members of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association.

Ecleo heads the PBMA, an anti-communist cult, which became popular in the 1980s.

Olario said some 200 policemen and soldiers have already set-up checkpoints and were going house to house in an effort to arrest Ecleo, a former mayor of San Jose town here.

The INQUIRER also saw at least two MG-520 helicopters, which officials said were on standby to ferry Ecleo out of the island in case he would be arrested.

Earlier, Rep. Glenda Ecleo, the fugitive's mother, told authorities that her son was no longer on Dinagat Island.

But Olario said there were indications that the parricide suspect never left the island.

"Beside, he would be more safe there with the protection of his followers," he said.

In early May, a team from the Criminal Intelligence and Detection Group in Visayas was sent after a Cebu court issued a warrant of arrest against Ecleo, but PBMA members blocked the arresting team.

Representative Ecleo told the arresting team to wait until after the family decides on surrendering her son to avoid a bloodbath.

As this developed, Olario said he was declaring Ecleo the most wanted person in the region.

"I am putting him in the top most list of wanted persons in Caraga coupled with a P50,000 reward money for anyone who can (lead to) his whereabouts that will result in his arrest," he said.

Olario said he also asked an additional P100,000 from PNP chief Leandro Mendoza to add to the bounty on Ecleo's head.

The putting up of the bounty came after negotiations for Ecleo's surrender repeatedly failed.

During the negotiations that started early this month, Representative Ecleo promised to Sen. Robert Barbers, Gov. Lyndon Barbers, Vice Gov. Rodolfo Navarro and Olario, that she would hand over her son on Wednesday.

She failed to fulfill that promise.

Representative Ecleo admitted she has lost control over her son.

But Olario said he believes Representative Ecleo's failure to fulfill her promise was part of the plan to keep the wanted cult leader away from authorities. ***Ma. Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Plane overshoots Caticlan runway

By Recto Vidal and N. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

MALAY, Aklan—Fear gripped the 40 passengers and crew members of an Asian Spirit plane after the two-engine aircraft overshot the runway of the Caticlan Airport shortly after it landed about 8:20 a.m. Wednesday.

No one ,was reported hurt but airport operations were suspended for about five hours because the rear of the airplane was blocking the runway.

Normal airport operations resumed only at 1:30 p.m. after airport personnel towed the plane away from the runway. The Caticlan Airport runway is 834 meters long and 30 meters wide.

Efren Nagrama, officer in charge of the Air Transportation Office (ATO) in Caticlan, said Asian Spirit Flight No. 871 was slowing down after it landed from Manila around 8:20 a.m. when the 40-seater plane swerved off the right shoulder of the runway.

All the passengers and crewmembers safely disembarked from the plane some five minutes after the aircraft came to a stop. A number of the passengers appeared to have been shaken by the experience, radio reports said.

Rebels torch another bus in Negros Oriental town

DUMAGUETE CITY—A Ceres passenger bus owned by the Vallacar Transit Inc. was torched on Wednesday night by more than 20 heavily armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army in Guihulngan town, about 117 kilometers north of this city.

Not one of the 17 bus passengers was hurt in the incident, said Senior Supt. Drusillo Bolodo, police provincial director of Negros Oriental.

He said members of the 66th Infantry Battalion based in Guihulngan are now running after the armed men believed to be NPA rebels.

The INQUIRER tried to talk to the management of Vallacar Transit in Dumaguete. But an employee, who declined to be identified, said Mario Lentoria, their operations manager, was still in Guihulngan.

The employee declined to say if the rebels had been demanding revolutionary taxes from the bus management.

The military and the police have identified Guihulngan as among the seven northern towns in Negros Oriental where the NPA rebels were operating.

A report from the Guihulngan police station showed that the Ceres Bus, with body number 7636, left the terminal in the town proper at about 7 p.m. on Wednesday. The bus was bound for San Carlos City, Negros Occidental.

A few minutes later, three men boarded the bus. They pretended to be passengers who were going to the adjacent town of Vallahermosa.

The three pulled out their firearms upon reaching the national highway in Barangay Hibaiyo, Guihulngan. One of them pointed his firearm at bus driver Nicolas Chiu and told him to drive toward Sitio Oma.

5 slain in Davao Norte clash

DAVAO CITY—Five people were killed while two others were injured when militiamen clashed with New People's Army guerrillas in a remote village of Talaingod town in Davao del Norte on Monday.

The encounter occurred in the wake of admissions from police and military officials that the communists were regaining their strength in the countryside.

A report dispatched by the Southern Mindanao regional police office said that members of the Civilian Volunteers Organization were patrolling Sto. Niño Village when they chanced upon some 30 heavily armed men around 3 a.m. on Monday.

Although they were only armed with home-made shotguns, which are locally known as "surit-surit," bolos and bows and arrow, the militiamen bravely fought the rebels, who were armed with high-powered assault rifles, according to the report.

Killed in the encounter were militiamen Panga Panaloy, Lardo Ontod and Mario Paosan, all residents of Barangay Sto. Niño.

Wounded were Sidawan Balid and Ambal Sibogan, also of the said village.

The police identified the slain rebels as a certain Commander Ayan and an alias Jorge.

In Maasim, Sarangani Province, soldiers killed at least nine rebels on Sunday following a tip-off that NPA guerrillas were meeting with Moro Islamic Liberation Front rebels in Sitio Dansalan in Barangay Daliao. ***Dennis Jay Santos and Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Youths0 keep away from SK candidacy

BAGUIO CITY—Seven villages in this city have no candidates for the July 15 Sangguniang Kabataan elections, officials of the Commission on Elections here said.

Lawyer Julius Torres, Comelec chair for Baguio and Benguet, said their reports also showed many villages in the Cordillera's six provinces have no candidates for the SK polls.

Torres said the biggest number of youth candidates who filed their certificates of candidacy (COC) for one barangay in the city was 10. In Benguet, the biggest number of candidates was 12 for one barangay.

In the SK polls, youth voters aged 15 to 17 in every barangay in the country will elect an SK chair and seven SK council members.

Torres said based on their records, most barangays in Baguio and Benguet have only one candidate. ***Jovelyn Reyes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Visayas and Mindanao including Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	HI34° Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 26° Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	HI 36° Lo 21°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 26°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 26°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 34° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 35° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 25°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 26°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 25°

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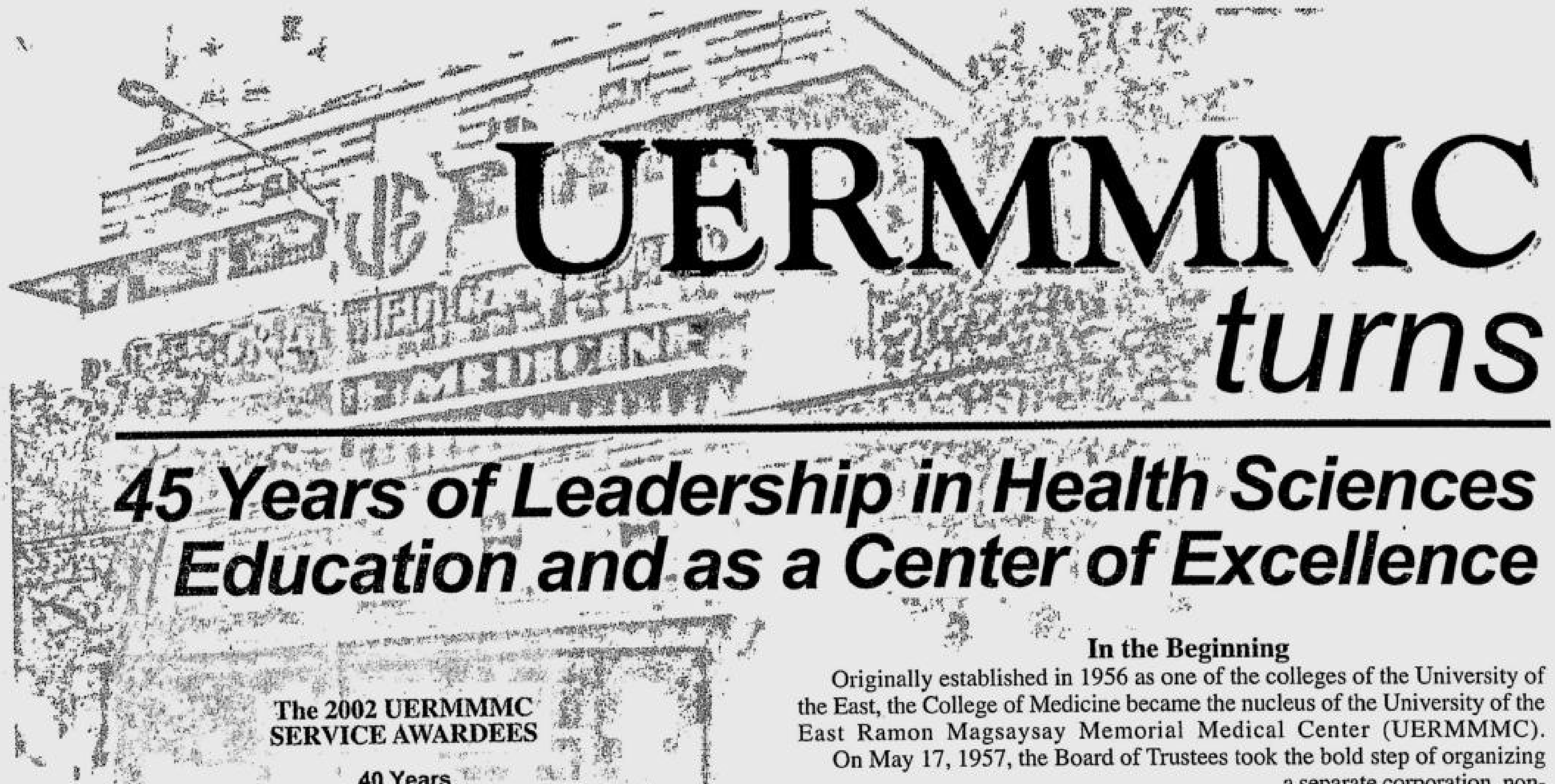

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Nelia C. Evangelista, *42 yrs.*
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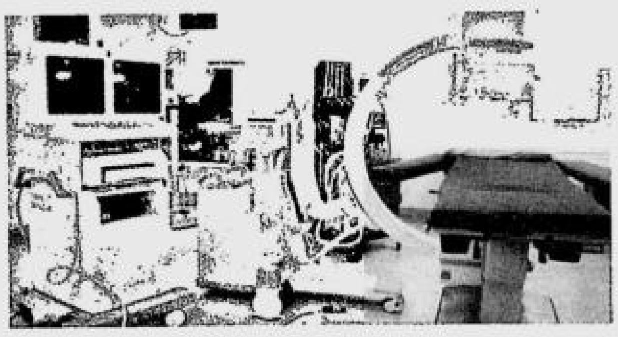
Pilar S. Mateo, *41 yrs.*
Honorato H. Piedad, M.D., *30 yrs.*
Abelardo M. Prodigalidad, M.D., *29 yrs.*
Pablo B. Reyes, M.D., *37 yrs.*
Agapito N. Tuason, M.D., *35 yrs.*
Jose C. Urnali, *18 yrs.*

In the Beginning

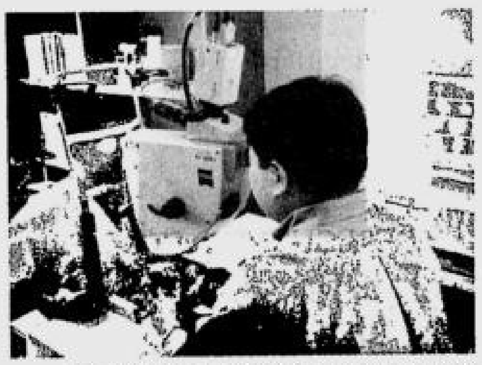
Originally established in 1956 as one of the colleges of the University of the East, the College of Medicine became the nucleus of the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center (UERMMMC).

On May 17, 1957, the Board of Trustees took the bold step of organizing a separate corporation, non-stock and non-profit, converting the UE College of Medicine into a foundation. The Medical Center was registered as such with the Securities and Exchange Commission on June 15, 1957, and became the first non-sectarian private educational institution to be established on a completely non-profit basis in the Philippines.



The GE vascular C-Arm with DSA at the Department of Radiology

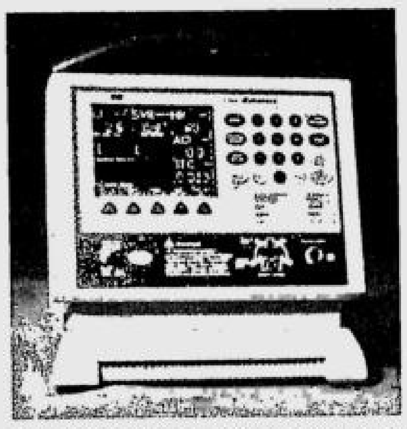
The Center was named after Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay. In his letter-request to Mrs. Luz B. Magsaysay, former UERMMMC President Francisco T. Dalupan said: "We feel that a College of Medicine and a Hospital engaged in alleviating human suffering, through medical institution, research administration, will be a worthy monument to the departed leader whose paramount concern was the improvement of the life of the masses."



The flourescin angiography unit at the Ophthalmology department

The first graduates of the College of Medicine garnered the highest individual college passing average—93%—in the May 1961 medical board examinations.

In 1959, the UERMMMC College of Nursing was opened as an additional unit. The first capping ceremony of the College of Nursing was held in January 1969.



The BioZ System, which uses space-age technology in providing non-invasive, highly accurate critical care/ intensive care monitoring

At about the same time, in 1960, the inauguration of the new, well-equipped modern hospital—the UERMMMC Hospital—that has become the clinical laboratory of the students—was held. This completed the necessary teaching facilities of the Colleges of Medicine and Nursing.

After satisfying the requirement of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), a provisional permit to open a five-year BS Physical Therapy proper was issued to UERMMMC. Hence, in June 1988, the College of Physical Therapy commenced its operations as part of the Center's academic community.

The GIT Videoendoscopy machine

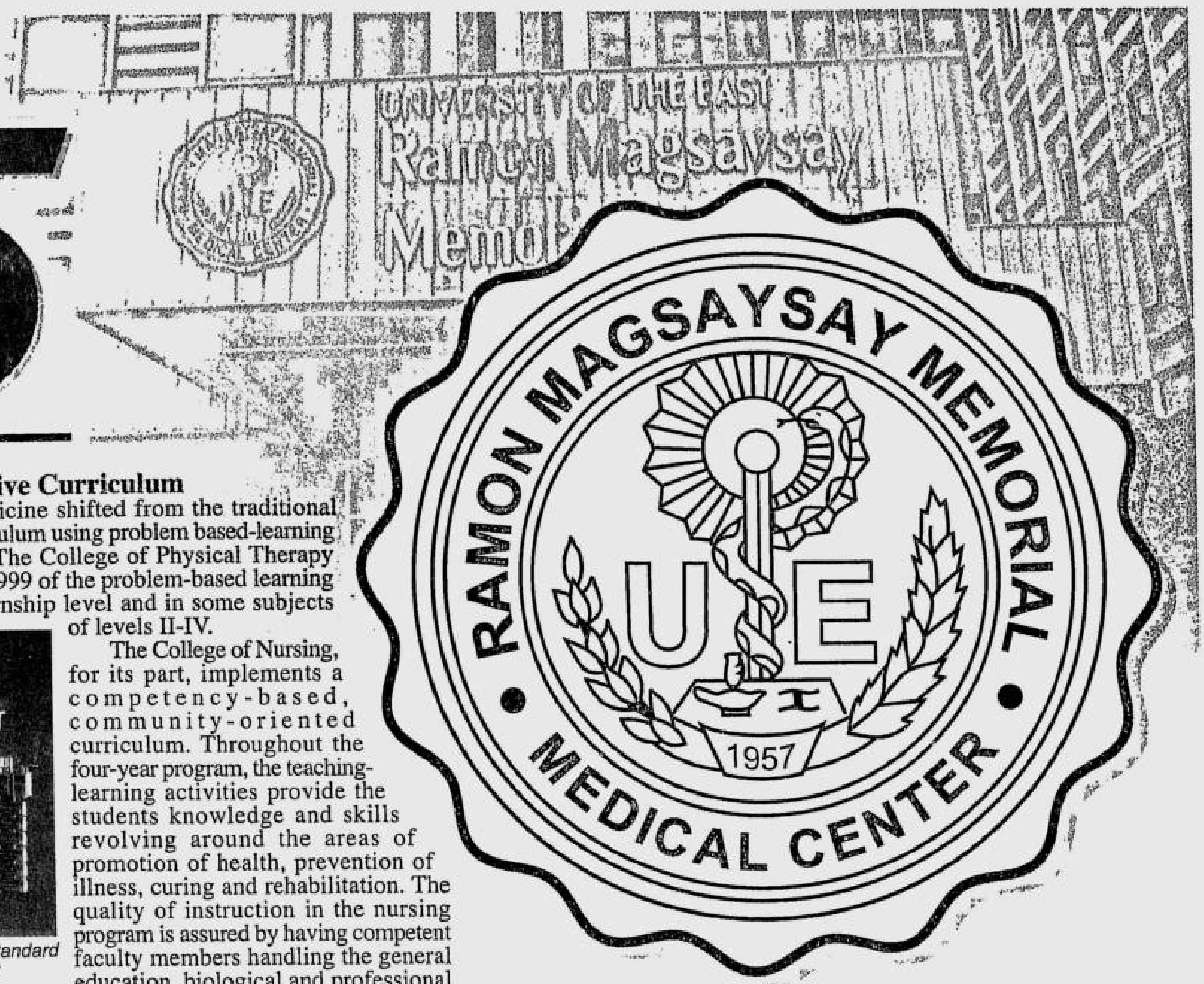
Vision and Mission

The UERMMMC's vision as a leading educational institution is to look forward to being responsive to the changing health needs, to be dedicated to the people's well-being through excellence in the academe, health care and research. Its mission is to educate and train competent, compassionate and ethical health professionals; to provide affordable, effective and relevant community and hospital care; to develop and pursue quality research respondent to national health needs and issues; and to create and sustain an environment conducive to empowerment, dynamic learning and committed service.

The Senographe DMR mammography unit at the Department of Radiology

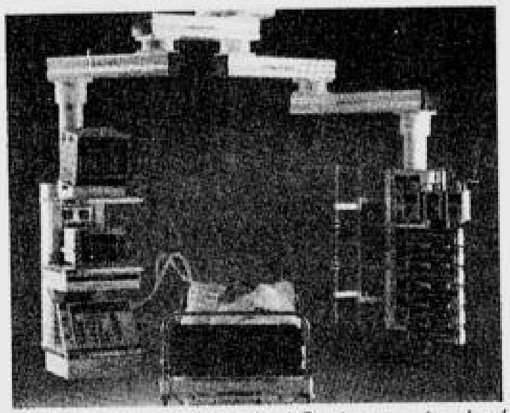
The Colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Physical Therapy continue to advance and grow as prime competitors of other bigwigs in those fields. The stiff competition has not precluded the UERMMMC's board examinees to vie for the top.

45



An Innovative Curriculum

In 1998, the College of Medicine shifted from the traditional curriculum to the innovative curriculum using problem based-learning (PBL) as the teaching strategy. The College of Physical Therapy also started the incorporation in 1999 of the problem-based learning approach to teaching in the internship level and in some subjects of levels II-IV.


The Heraeus ICU Pendant System, a standard for the new 21-bed Intensive Care Unit

The College of Nursing, for its part, implements a competency-based, community-oriented curriculum. Throughout the four-year program, the teaching-learning activities provide the students knowledge and skills revolving around the areas of promotion of health, prevention of illness, curing and rehabilitation. The quality of instruction in the nursing program is assured by having competent faculty members handling the general education, biological and professional courses. The use of problem-based learning as teaching strategy has also been adopted in selected courses, in order to develop further the students' analytical, critical and strategic decision-making capabilities.

In Pursuit of Academic Excellence

As a result of its pursuit of academic excellence, the College of Nursing has finally achieved the status of a Level III, fully accredited program in October 1999. This was awarded by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), after the College satisfactorily met the standards and fulfilled the requirements of the Philippine Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU) and the Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines. The Colleges of Medicine and Physical Therapy are eyeing accreditation in the near future and are in the process of preparing the necessary requirements.

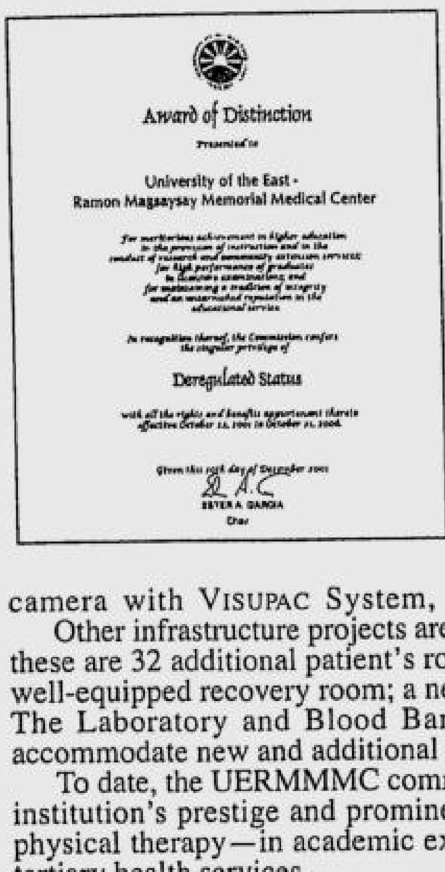
The GE Premio Radiologic and Flouroscopic machine at the X-Ray Department

The CHED granted UERMMMC the DEREGULATED STATUS on December 20, 2001. The CHED also gave the Center an Award of Distinction, in recognition of UERMMMC's achievements in the field of education in the Health Sciences, particularly Medicine, Nursing and Physical Therapy. UERMMMC is one of only 22 institutions granted a Deregulated Status—out of about 2,000 higher-learning institutions in the country—and one of only seven in the National Capital Region.

In the June 2002 Nursing Licensure Board Examination, UERMMMC garnered a passing percentage of 95.86 percent. In the February 2002 Medical Licensure Board Exams, the Center earned a passing percentage of 82 percent. And for the last ten years, from 1992 to 2002, the Center has achieved an overall passing percentage of 76 percent in the Physical Therapy Licensure Board Exams, whereas the national passing percentage for the same period has averaged between 20-30 percent.

In June 2003, the Medical Center will open its Graduate School, offering graduate courses in various disciplines of medicine, nursing and physical therapy.

Infrastructure Improvements and Plans


Award of Distinction

University of the East -
Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center

Deregulated Status

A continuing program of major repairs and renovations are being pursued for the Hospital and the Colleges. Patient rooms have been thoroughly renovated, and a new GIT-endoscopy unit has been constructed. A new Skills Lab for the College of Nursing was put up. A combined Food Court and Study Area, and an Interns' Quarters for medical students in Antipolo are currently under construction.

With its stable financial condition, the Medical Center has also embarked on a program of capital asset acquisitions. For the Pay Hospital, investments in new diagnostic equipment abound, including the purchase of a GE Logiq Color Console Ultrasound unit, a Senographe DMR mammography unit, a mobile X-ray, a Premio Radiologic and Flouroscopic machine, a vascular C-Arm, a fundus camera with VISUPAC System, a state-of-the-art BioZ equipment, etc.

Other infrastructure projects are being effected or are in the pipeline. Among these are 32 additional patient's rooms; two additional operating suites; a new, well-equipped recovery room; a new delivery room; and more doctors' offices. The Laboratory and Blood Bank Department will also be expanded to accommodate new and additional diagnostic facilities.

To date, the UERMMMC community, alive and kicking, has maintained the institution's prestige and prominence—in the field of medicine, nursing and physical therapy—in academic excellence and in the field of community and tertiary health services.

UERMMMC has endured all slings and arrows, and it commits itself to continue living the very purpose of its existence!

The 2002 UERMMMC MEDICAL ALUMNI AWARDEES

Antonio H. Villalon, M.D. (batch 1970), *President-Philippine College of Physicians (2001-2002)*
Antonio S. Sibulo Jr., M.D. (1975), *President-Cardiac Rehabilitation Society of the Philippines (2002)*
Noel B. Carilo, M.D. (1976), *President-Philippine Orthopedic Society for Sports Medicine (2001-2002)*
Noe A. Babilonia, M.D. (1975), *President-Philippine Heart Association (2001-2002)*
Lauro M. Abrahan Jr., M.D. (1976), *President, Philippine Orthopedic Association (2001-2002)*
Rosalinda F. Arandia, M.D. (1970), *Medical Director-Quirino Memorial Medical Center*
Edgardo V. Salud, M.D. (1973), *Medical Director-Quezon City General Hospital*
Christia S. Padolina, M.D. (1983), *Medical Director-Ospital ng Maynila*
Juanito L. Evangelista, M.D. (1986), *CEO and Medical Director, Healthway Medical Clinics*
Teodosio F. Alcantara, M.D. (1991), *Medical Director-Seamen's Hospital, Cebu.*

The 2002 UERMMMC NURSING ALUMNI AWARDEES

Carmelita C. Divinagracia, Ph.D, RN (1962), *Dean-UERMMMC College of Nursing*
Lucia V. Soltes, MM, RN (1962), *Chief Nurse-UERMMMC Hospital*
Purita Dela Rosa Escobar, Ph.D, RN (1964), *Dean-College of Nursing, Butuan College*
Marilyn R. Coladilla, Ph.D., RN (1976), *Dean-College of Nursing, Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila Graduate Program*
Violeta Monroy Glova, MAN, RN (1977), *Dean-College of Nursing, Don Mariano Marcos State University, Batac, Ilocos Norte.*

UERMMMC
45th Foundation Anniversary Activities
June 2002

June 10 - Eucharistic Mass, UERM Gym
June 11 - Community Services/Free Medical and Surgical Clinics: Cataract Repair, Harelip Repair, Bloodletting and Blood Exam, Hospital
June 13 - Students' Day Fair, Quadrangle
June 14 - Convocation & Recognition of Service Awardees and Alumni Awardees, 10 a.m., Gymnasium
- Lunch, 12 p.m., Hospital Quadrangle
- Parlor Games, Bingo Socials, Raffles and Fellowship, 2-5 p.m., Quadrangle
- Alumni Day/Tour of the Center and Blessing of New Facilities, 3 p.m.
- Alumni Night, 7 p.m., Quadrangle

University of the East Ramon Magsaysay
Memorial Medical Center
Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. no. 715-0861 • *www.uerm.edu*
e-mail to: *uermmisd201@yahoo.com*

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Alvarez out; Mendoza in

From page A1

Fellow administration lawmaker Sen. Manuel Villar said the resignation was a good decision. "This shows that he is willing to give up his position for the sake of order and harmony as he has faced stiff opposition."

But opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said Alvarez's resignation was a big loss to Mindanao. "The resignation of Secretary Alvarez is Mindanao's loss. We from Mindanao are hoping that his replacement would come from Mindanao," Pimentel said.

"We in the Mindanao Legislators Caucus will see how newly appointed DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza treats Mindanao," Pimentel added. "If he is biased against Mindanao, we will oppose his appointment."

Alvarez's former colleagues in Congress praised him, saying his decision to resign showed "delicadeza."

Deputy Speaker for Luzon Raul Gonzalez and Representatives Wilfredo Villarama, Rolex Suplico, Prospero Pichay, and Abraham Mitra were one in saying that Alvarez acted to save the President from additional problems.

"It was very good of him to save the President . . . he probably didn't want his baggage to be carried by the President," Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

Mitra said that Alvarez "spared the President and Malacañang the agony of waiting for his confirmation," while Villarama said Alvarez did a "noble act" and showed a "high degree of delicadeza."

Pichay said he was sad about the resignation of Alvarez, because he was one of the few Cabinet members from Mindanao.

"I think his was a gallant act and should be emulated by others not confirmed (by the CA)," Pichay said, in reference to Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez.

Suplico said that Alvarez's resignation might have had something to do with his having "tangled with some big guy in the industry," but he did not elaborate.

Piatco deal

The heated opposition to Alvarez's confirmation reached a new level of intensity last week when Maso presented German witness Norbert Loesch—a consultant for Piatco—who claimed that Alvarez "may" have received money from the Filipino-German consortium constructing Naia 3.

"They even went to the extent of importing a criminal to weave a tall tale based on pure hearsay," Alvarez said in his statement, referring to Loesch. According to Piatco spokesperson Moises Tolentino Jr., Loesch had twice been convicted of fraud in Germany and was fired from Piatco because he was also doing consultancy work for Maso at the same time.

Tolentino said yesterday that it was unfortunate that Alvarez had been forced to resign, but added that the consortium would welcome "any replacement."

"We are sorry for him but we admire his courage in his decision. Secretary Alvarez has been a victim and the system failed to protect him," Tolentino said.

"Piatco welcomes any replacement for Secretary Alvarez since there is no special relationship between the consortium and secretary," he added.

Piatco has consistently denied paying off government officials.

In his resignation statement, Alvarez pointed to the distraction that the opposition to his appointment had caused.

"During all this time, our work at the department has suffered greatly. Not a few potential investors have put off their plans in view of the protracted hearings . . . Precious time was wasted confronting black propaganda of the vested interests that want me out," Alvarez said.

He gave thanks to the President. "My heartfelt gratitude goes to President Macapagal-Arroyo for her continued trust and confidence in me. I wish to assure her that I have no rancor in my heart, but only deep appreciation for giving me the singular opportunity to serve as DOTC secretary," Alvarez said.

"By my sacrifice, I hope the sinister machinations of my detractors would finally end so that we could all focus on the task at hand and the country can move forward," he added.

"As I told the President, there is no premium for the truth but I will not stand (in) the way of national advancement." ***With reports from Cynthia Balana and Christine Avendaño***

Why Mendoza? Appointment hailed, jeered

From page A1

requested that I retire already. But when the position (in the DOTC) was offered to me by the President, I accepted it," he said at a briefing in Camp Crame.

He had earlier turned down offers to head the corrupt-ridden Bureau of Customs, saying that he was incompetent to handle its technical nature.

Mendoza, who was informed of his appointment last week, said he was "honored" and "humbled" by the appointment.

"I never dreamed of becoming a Cabinet secretary," said the visibly pleased Mendoza. He was set to retire on March 17, but the President "extended" his term as PNP chief for six more months.

"You see we're trying to make history. I'm the first one to have been extended and appointed as Cabinet secretary," Mendoza said.

Wrong man

A member of the Commission on Appointments and a militant group said Mendoza was the wrong man for the job as head of the Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC).

"He has nothing to show in terms of credentials, training and experience as far as aviation, telecommunications, information technology, shipping, etc. are concerned," said Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo, deputy chief of the House delegation to the Commission on Appointments.

"Why inflict a PNP chief who couldn't even solve the Nida Blanca killing on the Filipino people?" Saludo said.

He said Mendoza's tenure as PNP chief was marked by an upsurge in kidnapping, robbery with murder and holdup cases and the proliferation of jueteng and other forms of gambling.

Saludo expressed doubts that Mendoza would be confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

Teddy Casiño, Bayan secretary general, said Mendoza "is not qualified to head a very important and strategic post." The DOTC has 19 attached agencies.

Casiño said Mendoza's appointment to the DOTC was "*bayad utang* (payment of debt) for his loyalty to GMA (the President)."

In January 2001, Mendoza, then PNP deputy director general, was the most senior police officer to withdraw support from President Joseph Estrada.

He took over Camp Crame, the PNP headquarters, while the military was withdrawing support from Estrada at the height of People Power II protests.

Casiño said Mendoza's new post "indicates the growing military influence in the Macapagal administration. That's very telling, a civilian post being given to the military."

Casiño said Bayan's immediate concern in the appointment of Mendoza was the "use of the military for surveillance in communications."

Preparation for 2004

He theorized that the appointment could be "part of preparations for the 2004 elections." Ms Macapagal is expected to run for President in 2004.

Mendoza expressed the belief that Ms Macapagal singled him out for the post because it involved the enforcement of the country's laws on land, air and water transportation and on communication.

"I know that there are enforcement activities there," he said.

The agencies attached to the DOTC are the Land Transportation Office, Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board, Office of Transport Cooperatives, Light Rail Transit Authority, Metro Rail Transport Authority, and Philippine National Railways.

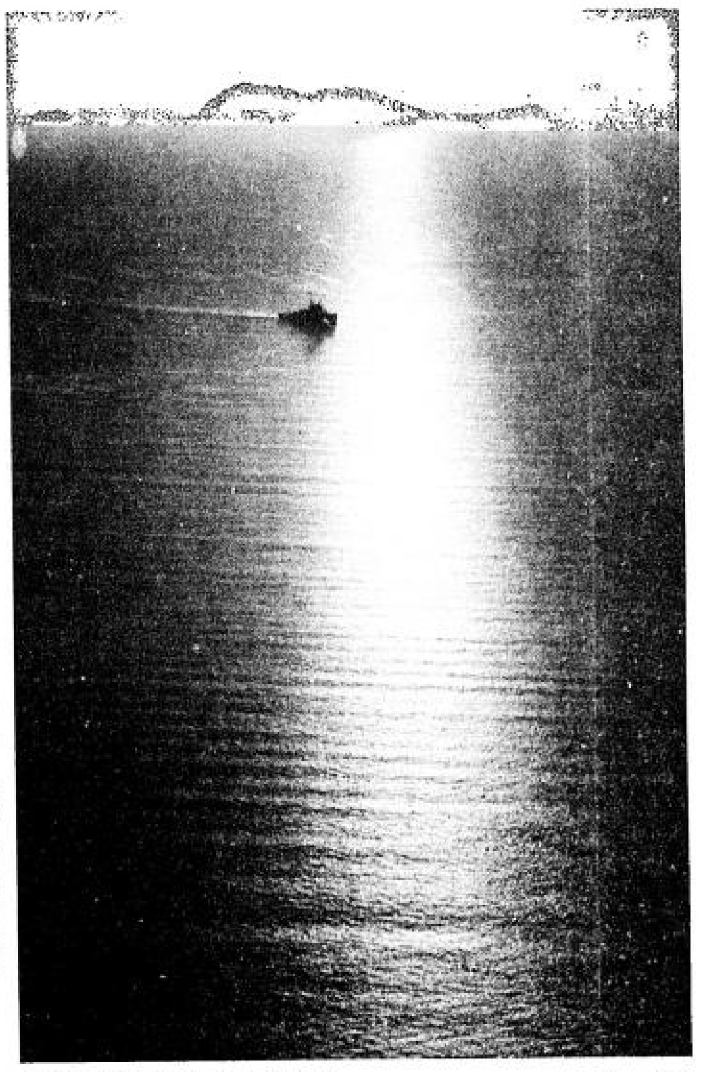
Also under the DOTC are the Air Transportation Office, Civil Aeronautics Board, Mactan-Cebu International Airport, Manila International Airport Authority, Philippine Aerospace Development Corp., Cebu Ports Authority, Maritime Industry Authority, Philippine Coast Guard, Philippine Merchant Marine Academy, and Philippine Ports Authority.

Mendoza would also oversee the operations of the National Telecommunications Commission, Telecommunications Office and Philippine Postal Corp.

This being his first time to head a civilian office, Mendoza said he would meet with and seek advice from Alvarez on how to run the agency.

Alvarez is set to turn over the DOTC to Mendoza in the first week of July.

Sen. Manuel Villar expressed confidence that the Commission on Appointments would eventually confirm Mendoza. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa and Cynthia D. Balana***



AFP/ROMY GACAD

DAYBREAK IN BASILAN

A Philippine Navy ship patrols the waters off the island province of Basilan on June 12 as government forces make a final push to rid the island of Abu Sayyaf rebels.

Bayani of Marikina is new MMDA chair

From page A1

"It is Bayani Fernando, the former mayor of Marikina," the President said.

The appointment caught some by surprise. Fernando's party affiliation in 1998, when he ran for his third straight term, was with Joseph Estrada's Partido ng Masang Pilipino. He was with the administration Lakas-NUCD when he won his first term in 1992.

Fernando, a mechanical engineer by training, is no stranger to the MMDA as he was vice chair in 1994-1995. He will replace Benjamin Abalos, who has been appointed chair of the Commission on Elections.

Marikina model

The President noted Fernando's track record in Marikina. "When I called Bayani, I said, 'BF, what you did for Marikina, you must do for the whole of Metro Manila'." Fernando has received awards for exemplary performance in local governance from such institutions as the Asian Institute of Management and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation of Germany.

Ms Macapagal said the new MMDA chair was a man after her own heart. "Bayani is highly professional, straight to the point, no nonsense. Well that's my style too."

This is the first appointment of the 55-year-old Fernando to a government position since serving three terms as Marikina mayor from 1992 to 2001.

In last year's elections, Fernando's wife Marides ran for and won her husband's old post.

Fernando, a graduate of mechanical engineering from the Mapua Institute of Technology, formed his own group of construction firms. As mayor, Fernando also served as president of the Metro Manila Mayors' League and vice chair of the Metro Manila Authority, the forerunner of the MMDA.

Fernando's father Gil had served as mayor of what was then the town of Marikina on and off from 1947 to 1959.

As the new chair, Fernando will have his hands full with the perennial traffic problem in Metro Manila, now that classes have started.

The garbage situation will also need Fernando's immediate attention. The controversial $350-million Jancom contract is still pending after the Supreme Court affirmed its legality.

But the President had said she would not sign the contract because it was "flawed," but left it to the MMDA to evaluate and make recommendations on the contract.

As of press time yesterday, Fernando refused to be interviewed. His staff said Fernando would wait for the official documents from Malacañang before making any statement. He was in Malacañang consulting with the President yesterday afternoon.

Mayors' reaction

His fellow mayors hailed the new appointment.

Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay said Fernando's appointment was "a most welcome choice."

"He has the right background, and the right credentials. He is, after all, the mayor responsible for turning Marikina into one of Metro Manila's success stories in local governance," said Binay, who was MMDA chair during Estrada's interrupted term.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said Fernando was "perfect for the position. We can all see what he was able to do in Marikina. He has a good record as Marikina mayor."

MMDA staff noted Fernando's reputation for discipline.

A female employee said Fernando was "*mahigpit* (strict)." Another female employee said he was "a good choice," adding: "It's OK if he is really strict so we can implement our projects better and with more efficiency."

Some congressmen had advance knowledge of Fernando's appointment.

Bulacan Rep. Wilfredo Villarama yesterday said the President made "off the cuff" remarks to the congressmen when they gathered around her during the traditional Independence Day vin d' honneur reception in Malacañang.

Deputy Speaker for Luzon Raul Gonzalez, who the other day had said some congressmen were filing a resolution endorsing former Muntinlupa Mayor Ignacio Bunye for MMDA chair, said that Fernando was also capable.

He said some people told him that Fernando was appointed to the post because he was able to transform Marikina into one of the cleanest cities in the country.

He said he found this a "good explanation." ***With a report from Christine Avendaño***

GMA: Ebdane meets all the standards

From page A1

was supposed to retire last March. Ebdane is next in line in terms of seniority.

Apparently to make up for the slip, Ms Macapagal had extended Mendoza's term of duty to six more months or until September. Mendoza has been named transportation secretary.

"He's very professional and competent," Senior Supt. Leonardo Espina said last night of Ebdane, previously the head of the National Anti-Crime Commission Anti-KFR Task Force.

While the President had repeatedly said that Ebdane would succeed Mendoza, Ebdane had been modest about it.

Ebdane had refused to discuss the issue with the media. Until last night he did not want to be interviewed by the media.

His aide told the INQUIRER that he was awaiting official orders from Malacañang before talking about his new position as the 10th PNP chief and his plans for the PNP.

"He's serious when it comes to cracking down on criminals," Director Lucas Managuelod, head of the PNP Directorate for Investigation and Detective Management, earlier said.

Ebdane, a member of Class 1970 of the Philippine Military Academy, is not due to retire until 2004. ***TJ Burgonio***

ANG
NTIPIKONG
ULTURA
AKMA
PULIS

ERIK ARAZAS

WHILE President Macapagal-Arroyo (flanked by National Commission for Culture and the Arts Chair Evelyn Pantig on her right and Presidential Adviser on Culture Leticia Ramos Shahani on her left) presides at a convention of artistic and cultural experts inside the Pearl Manila Hotel yesterday, the Concerned Artists of the Philippines rise in protest against the meeting outside the hotel.

MALACANANG PHOTO

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CASH P29800
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73.66 cm
29" WEGA

SONY
CTV KV-EX29M87
- 29" WEGA
- DVD Component Input
- 2-Tuner Picture-in-Picture

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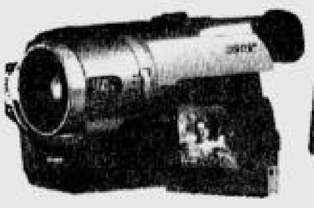

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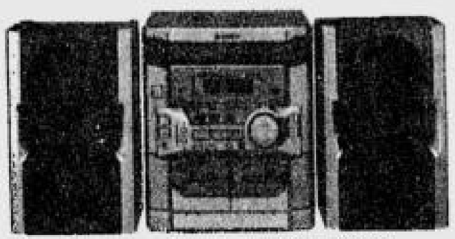
- Video CD Version 2.0
- Full-Karaoke Function
- Auto-Volt

CASH P5998
0% 6 months P1000/mo.



SHARP
CD-BK143V
- 1000W PMPO
- Karaoke Function
- 3 VCD Drawer Changer
- 2-Band AM/FM Tuner

CASH P9998
0% 3 months P3333/mo.

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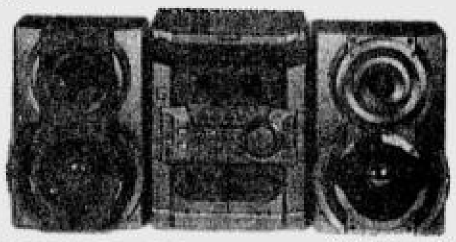

SHARP
CD-BK260
- 1800W PMPO
- 3 VCD/MP3/CD Drawer Changer
- Karaoke Function
- X-Bass System

CASH P11998
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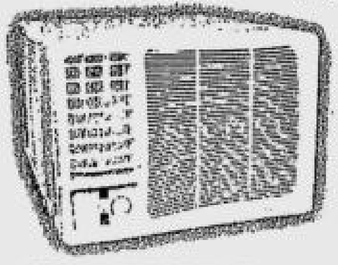
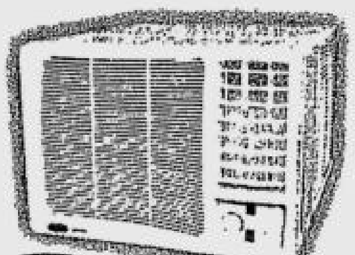


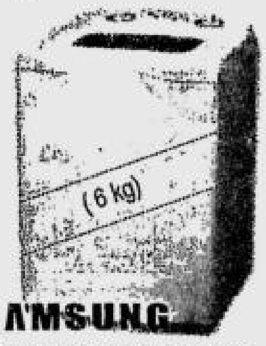
CONDURA
ROOM AIRCON
FCC-055PP
- (0.5 HP) 4750 kj/hr.
- with timer

CASH P10200
0% 3 months P3400/mo.



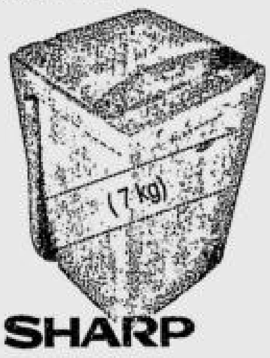
Carrier
ROOM AIRCON
FCA-095BP
- (1 HP) 9500 kj/h
- Even Operation

CASH P14250
0% 3 months P4750/mo.



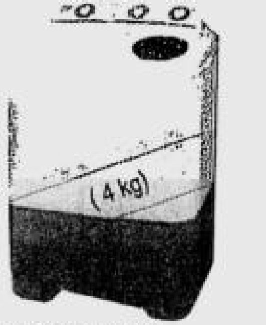
***SAMSUNG**
WASHING MACHINE
WS-7500
- (6 kg) Dry Weight Capacity
- Automatic

CASH P7995
0% 3 months P2665/mo.



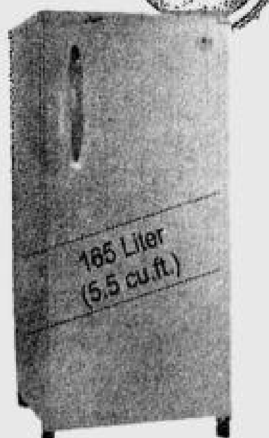
SHARP
WASHING MACHINE
ES-701X
- (7 kg) Dry Weight Capacity
- Gentle Dry S[illegible]

CASH P13788
0% 3 m[illegible]ths P45[illegible]6/mo.



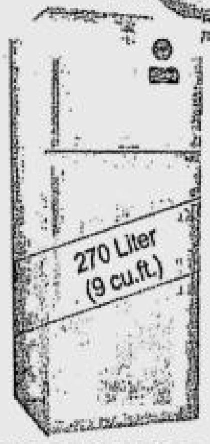
***SAMSUNG**
TWIN TUB WASHING MACHINE
WT-55H1
- (4 kg) Dry Weight

CASH P4995
0% 3 months P1665/mo.



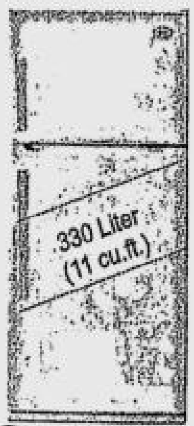
LG
REF. LR-191
- 165 Liter / 5.5 cu.ft.
- Semi-Automa[illegible] Defrosting

CASH P8495
0% 3 [illegible]ont[illegible] P[illegible]2/mo.



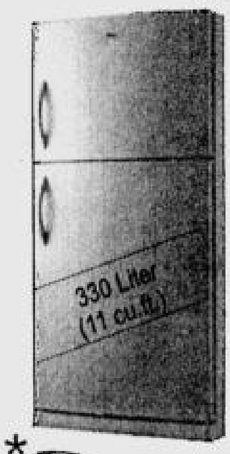
SAMSUNG
REF. SR-30NMANF
- 270 Liter / 9.0 cu.ft.
- No-Frost refrigerator

CASH P16350
0% 3 [illegible]onth[illegible] P5[illegible]0/mo.



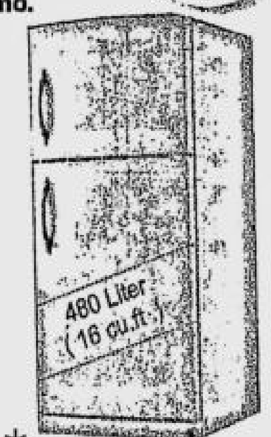
LG
2 DOOR REF. GR-T382GV
- No Frost
- (11 cu.ft.)

CASH P20295
0% 3 mo[illegible]s P67[illegible]/mo.



***Whirlpool**
WR-N12K
- 330 Liter / 11 cu.ft.
- No-Frost

CASH P21950
0% 6 mon[illegible]s P36[illegible]/mo.



***Whirlpool**
WR-N16K
- 480 Liter/16 cu.ft.
- No-Frost

CASH P31950
0% 6 months P5325/mo.

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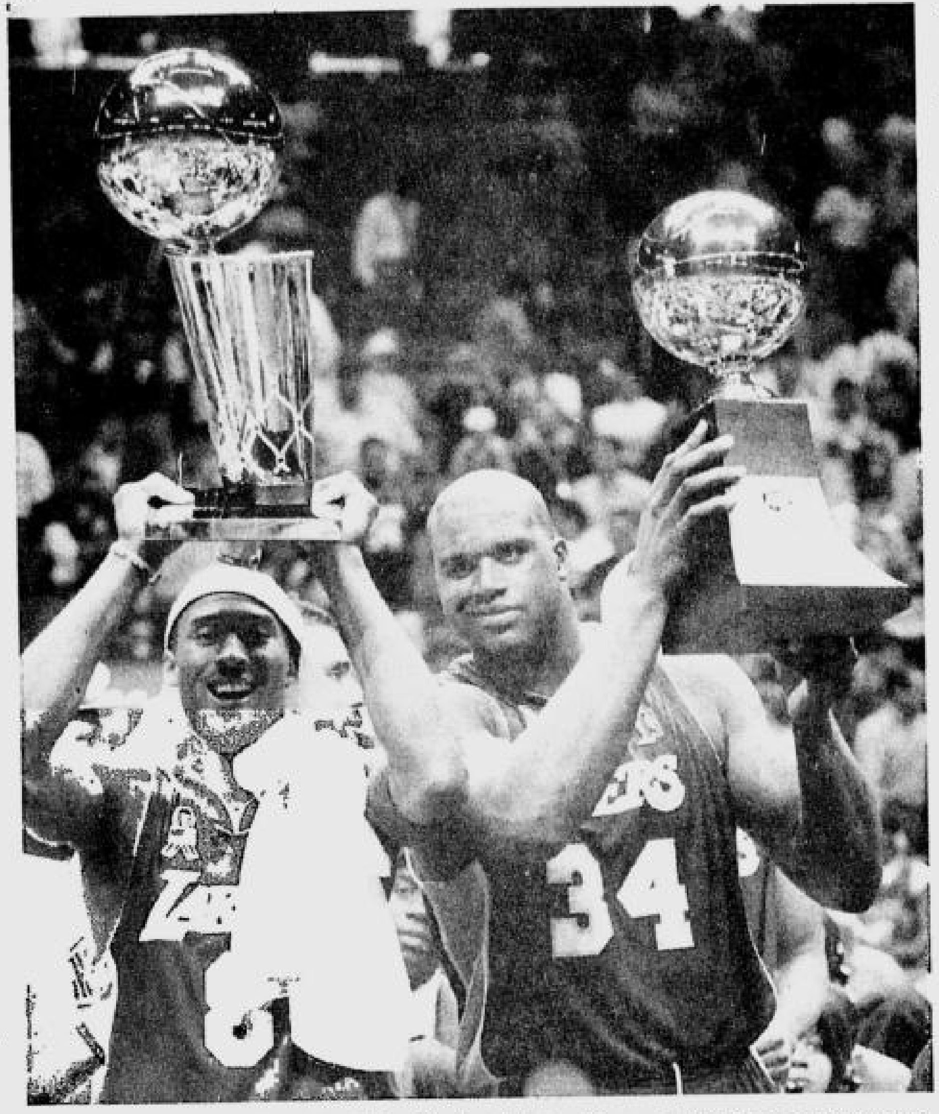
SPORTS ON TV **Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat**
GOLF: PGA Buick Classic Highlights at 9 a.m. and 3 p.m.(r) on Star Sports
Inside the PGA Tour at 11 a.m. on Star Sports
US Open 2002, Second Round at 11 p.m. and tomorrow at 5 a.m. on ESPN
TENNIS: Wimbledon Library Films - More than a Game at 8 a.m. (r), Official Film 1995 at 12 noon (r), Official Film 1996 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports



KOBE Bryant (left) and Shaquille O'Neal display their trophies symbolic of the Los Angeles' 4-0 romp of the New Jersey Nets yesterday to sweep the best-of-seven NBA Finals in East Rutherford, New Jersey. O'Neal was voted Finals MVP for the third straight year, duplicating the feat of Michael Jordan (1991-93 and 1996-98). O'Neal's 145-point total established a record for a four-game Finals, surpassing Olajuwon's 131 points in 1995, when the Houston Rockets swept O'Neal and the Orlando Magic. AP

Lakers complete sweep as MVP O'Neal scores 34

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey— The Los Angeles Lakers won their third straight National Basketball Association title here yesterday, downing New Jersey, 113-107, to complete a four-game sweep of the finals.

Shaquille O'Neal led all scorers with 34 points and was named the finals Most Valuable Player for the third straight year. He set a finals record for most points in a four-game series with 145.

The Lakers now rank as one of the truly great teams in NBA history. They have an oustanding coach in Phil Jackson and one of the most dominating one-two punches in professional sports in O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

They became only the fifth team to win three titles in a row, following the Chicago Bulls (twice), Minneapolis Lakers and Boston Celtics, who won eight consecutive crowns.

The Lakers didn't get off to as good a start as they had in the first three games, but they recovered in the second quarter to take a 58-57 lead into the half.

They withstood a 15-1 run by the Nets in the first quarter and a strong performance by the Nets' Kenyon Martin who had 35 points and 11 rebounds.

The Lakers took the lead for good, 89-87, after Brian Shaw hit an 18-foot jumper with 8:32 left. *AFP*

MBA to stake motorcycles

ADD SkyGo Motorcycles to the growing list of friends of the Metropolitan Basketball Association (MBA).

Gillamac's Marketing, the official distributor of SkyGo Motorcycles, will be conducting a halftime promotion during selected MBA games initially in Cebu, Davao, Cagayan de Oro and Lipa Cities.

To be known as "Go For SkyGo," leaflets will be distributed to the fans at the gate.

They can put the stubs into a drop box from where five lucky fans will be chosen to play at halftime. They will all automatically win SkyGo shirts.

Each contestant will be given three attempts to make one free throw to win a SkyGo cap and move to the next level.

After that, he is given two chances to convert a three-point shot to earn an Oclar Rice Cooker. Finally, the contestant must make one attempt at half-court for a brand-new SkyGo SG-150-ZK Motorcycle.

Cagayan de Oro hosts triathlon

ALL is set for the Enervon National Age-Group Triathlon series on June 16 in Cagayan de Oro City.

Action starts at 5:30 a.m. at the Don Gregorio Pelaez Sports Complex.

The TRAP-sanctioned event is the second to be presented by Enervon in Mindanao under the supervision of Rodel Magsalin, health consumer director of Enervon-Alaxan products for Mindanao.

"We are happy to support the development of triathlon in Mindanao and are elated that finally, the sport is going to be held in Cagayan de Oro for the first time," Magsalin said.

The event, co-sponsored by Speedo, the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Olympic Committee, and Asia Pacific Insulation, will be composed of a 750-M swimfest, 20-K bike race and a 5-K run.

For inquiries, please call race organizer Vic Sai (082-2279347) and TRAP's Dong Sarmiento (0916-8421114). Email TRAP at carrtom@mydestiny.net and ridgecarlo@yahoo.com

Brazil ousts C. Rica, moves up with Turkey

WORLD CUP 2002 STANDINGS

Team	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Group A							
Denmark	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
Senegal	3	1	2	0	5	4	5
Uruguay	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
France	3	0	1	2	0	3	1
Group B							
Spain	3	3	0	0	9	4	9
Paraguay	3	1	1	1	6	6	4
South Africa	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
Slovenia	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Group C							
Brazil	3	3	0	0	11	3	9
Turkey	3	1	1	1	5	3	4
Costa Rica	3	1	1	0	5	6	4
China	3	0	0	3	0	9	0
Group D							
Korea	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
USA	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Portugal	2	1	0	1	6	3	3
Poland	2	0	0	2	0	6	0
Group E							
Germany	3	2	1	0	11	1	7
Rep Ireland	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
Cameroon	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Saudi Arabia	3	0	0	3	0	12	0
Group F							
Sweden	3	1	2	0	4	3	5
England	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Argentina	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
Nigeria	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
Group G							
Mexico	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Italy	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Croatia	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Ecuador	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Group H							
Japan	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Russia	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	3	2
Tunisia	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

SUWON, South Korea—Brazil, looking more and more like the World Cup favorite, thrashed Costa Rica, 5-2, yesterday in their Group C finale, denying the Central Americans a place in the round of 16.

Four Brazilians scored—Ronaldo, Edmilson, Rivaldo and Junior—and a fifth goal initially given to Ronaldo was called an own-goal by Costa Rican defender Luis Marin. Paulo Wanchope scored late in the first half with Costa Rica's Ronald Gomez cutting the lead to 3-2 early in the second half.

Needing only a draw to advance, Costa Rica finished third in Group C with Turkey grabbing the second spot after a 3-0 victory Thursday over China. Costa Rica and Turkey both had four points but Turkey advanced with a better goal difference. Brazil won all three matches for nine points to top the group.

Brazil faces the No. 2 team in Group H in the second round. Turkey takes on the No. 1 team in Group H. That group was to finish Friday with all four teams—Japan, Russia, Belgium and Tunisia—having a chance to advance.

"We suffered a lot back on defense because Costa Rica was very dangerous," Junior said. "We will have to talk during the week on what happened and then will have to correct ... because those things should not happen."

Costa Rican defender Gilberto Martinez also blamed his defense for giving up too many goals.

"They (Brazil) took advantage of our errors, we committed some major errors on defense," Martinez said. "Unfortunately we were eliminated by goals not by points. It hurts going out that way. That's football unfortunately, but we've got something to build on for the next World Cup."

The goal spree by Brazil gave Ronaldo and Rivaldo three goals each for the tournament. Despite being beaten by a seemingly lopsided score, Costa Rica always looked threatening and rattled several shots off the woodwork. *AP*

Adidas streetball goes to Baguio tomorrow

THE EXCITEMENT that half-court basketball generates returns as adidas stages the adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 on June 15-16 in Baguio City.

"We are pleased to announce that the adidas Streetball Challenge is on its seventh year," said John Alonte, president and managing director of adidas. "We at adidas have always been in the forefront of providing the much-needed exposure to our budding cagers all throughout the country. Streetball has discovered basketeers like Gerard Francisco, Richard Yee, BJ Manalo, Wesley Gonzales and Enrico Villanueva."

The adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 kickoff leg tomorrow is for the Northern Luzon eliminations.

The competition moves to SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City on June 29-30 for the Metro Manila matches, followed by the Mindanao clashes on July 13-14 in Davao City, and the Visayas playoffs on Aug. 3-4 in Cebu City. The National Finals, scheduled on Aug. 17-18 is set in Cebu City.

The adidas Streetball Challenge 2002 national champions will represent the Philippines to the adidas Asian Streetball Finals 2002 on Aug. 29 in Shanghai, China.

Samsung Commissioner's Cup Sunday

Games Sunday (Araneta Coliseum)
3:45 p.m.—Shell vs. Talk 'N Text
5:45 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs. Red Bull

TELECOMMUNICATIONS giant will be the tournament sponsor for the coming Philippine Basketball Association Commissioner's Cup, which gets off the ground Sunday with an interesting double-header at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao.

Shell clashes with Talk 'N Text and Baragnay Ginebra battles Red Bull in the games that take the lid off the league's second offering for the year, which Samsung has agreed to sponsor following the success of the Governors Cup won by Purefoods.

Sang Youl Eom, a Korean who is president of Samsung in the Philippines, signed the agreement recently with Commissioner Jun Bernardino, who expressed his thanks, in behalf of the league.

De La Salle, Blu Sun Power KO today

DE LA SALLE battles Blu Sun Power at 4 p.m. today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Pasig Sports Center. The winner will clash with Ateneo in the best-of-five finals starting next week.

Bulacan golf slated

MALOLOS, Bulacan—The First LCTB Governor's Golf Cup, an invitational golf tournament organized by the League of Cable Television in Bulacan under the auspices of Governor Josie M. Dela Cruz of this province, will be held on June 28 at the Royal Northwoods Golf and Country in San Rafael, Bulacan.

Beneficiary of the tournament will be the LCTB and the Provincial Youth Development Council. Prizes for Categories A, B, C and the overall champion will be provided.

Dela Cruz has enjoined Ronald C. Manlapig, LCTB president, to "help ensure the success of the tournament."

'Schumi' to be stripped of Austrian G. Prix title

SCHUMACHER (behind) giving the trophy to Barrichello in Austria. FILE PHOTO

HALLE, Germany — Formula One authorities are set to strip Michael "Schumi" Schumacher of his controversial Austrian Grand Prix victory last month, the magazine Auto, Motor und Sport reported Wednesday.

The German trade publication, with a reputation for accuracy, quoted sources from the sport's governing body FIA in saying Schumacher's Ferrari teammate Rubens Barrichello would be awarded the grand prix title.

Ferrari ignited worldwide outrage in Austria when team boss Jean Todt ordered Barrichello to slow down on the final straight and let Schumacher pass him to help the German's bid for a fifth world title.

The trade magazine said the 23-member FIA world council favors basing the race result on the penultimate lap when a hearing is held on the incident June 26 in Paris. Barrichello was easily ahead of his Ferrari teammate at that point.

Schumacher's spokeswoman Sabine Kehm said the driver and his team took no stand on the magazine's report.

"We can't comment on every rumor that comes along," Kehm said.

Richard Woods, a spokesman for Geneva-based FIA, said Wednesday it would be "entirely inappropriate to comment in advance of the World Motorsport Council decision." *AP*

Django, Bata's heir apparent

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

AFTER laboring too long under the shadow of his idol and teacher, Efren "Bata" Reyes, always colorful Francisco "Django" Bustamante finally succeeded where his highly fancied mentor failed, winning in grand style the just-ended Motolite World 9-Ball Challenge at the Big Dome by making mincemeat of American champion Corey Deuel, 13-8, in the finals.

"The Filipino pride is saved," aptly wrote Tito Talao of Tempo after Bustamante, 38, walloped 24-year-old Deuel in the one-sided showdown for the $15,000 (750,000) paycheck. "His fallen comrade is avenged," Talao continued, referring to Reyes' shock defeat to Deuel in the semifinals the night before. Reyes, the pre-tournament favorite, eventually settled for third place, beating Japan's top player Kunihiko Takahashi, 11-8.

Eight handpicked hotshots, four from the Philippines (Reyes, Bustamante, Antonio "Nickoy" Lining and upcoming Dennis Orcullo), and equal number of tough players from the United States (Deuel and Earl Strickland), Europe (World Pool champion Mika Immonen of Finland) and Japan (Takahashi) took part in the six-day tournament promoted by Puyat Sports and Viva Vintage and sponsored by Oriental Battery and Motolite Corp. In winning the championship, Bustamante scored his second major victory this year. He earlier topped the 2002 Japan Open in Tokyo, trouncing Germany's multititled Ralf Souquet, 9-0, in the finals.

Born on Dec. 29, 1963 in Tarlac and now based in Germany, Bustamante made sports history in 1998 when he became the Camel Billiards Player of the Year, earning in the process a fat paycheck amounting to almost P5 million. It was a feat, albeit unlikely, for one who did not even finish high school like Reyes. And just like Reyes, Bustamante beat the odds to become rich and famous, a source of pride to his countrymen and eternal benefactors, brothers Popit and Putch Puyat.

"I have always been awed at the way Efren played," said Bustamante. During their early days in Manila, the two played for money a lot, with Reyes, then already a household name, spotting the younger Bustamante 33 points in a game of rotation and winning every time. "I lost a lot to Efren, but I learned a lot from him." Last year, Bustamante beat Reyes, 13-11, in the finals of the Joss Northeast Tour Turning Stone Casino Classic II in Verona, New York.

Against the Americans, Bustamante, banking on his booming breaks and creativity (like shooting behind his back), added flare to an already deadly game. "Maybe the Americans are popular in the magazines, but on the pool table I'm the better player," he said. Bustamante did just that at the Big Dome.

Clutario, Ong bowl champs

LIZA Clutario and Frederick Ong kept the Philippines' pride intact as they completed a sweep of the youth masters championships in the 31st Boysen-PBC International Open Wednesday at the Green Valley Center in Pasig.

A member of the RP team bound for the Asian tenpin bowling championships in Hong Kong at the end of the month, Clutario had a 10-game series average of 224 and totalled 2236 pinfalls in the finals.

She beat Korea's Joen Da Hye (1897) for the girls crown of the 2002 CGU Asian Bowling Tour's third leg.

TBAM-Prima's Cheche Abrantes could have made it a 1-2 finish for the Philippines but lost to Hye in the tie-breaker game, 216-205, and settled for third in the meet sponsored by Boysen, Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), Prudential Guarantee, Regent Foods, Prima Pasta, Bowlmart, Kegel, ILO Construction and Manila Galleria Suites.

The day actually belonged to Bowlmart as Clutario's teammates Ong and Jeremy Posadas engaged in a tight battle for the boys title of the event sanctioned by the Asian Bowling Federation.

In the end, Ong edged out Posadas by just two pinfalls, 2069-2967, to run away with the crown.

First Gentleman's Cup at Wack Wack gets major boost

THE FIRST Gentleman's Cup golf tournament on June 27 at Wack Wack west has started to get ample backing with the organizing committee receiving numerous pledges of support from various companies and individuals.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo's friends are staging what is actually his birthday tournament for a very special cause as the proceeds will go to the Project Oyster, a program seeking to uplift the plight of the country's out-of-school youth.

Project Oyster stands for Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Recovery, one of the key projects of the Philippine National Police aiming to give the jobless youth a more important role in nation building.

The tournament secretariat has already sent out letters of sponsorships as well as invitations to kindhearted golfing benefactors in the hope of turning the inaugural First Gentleman's Cup into a huge success.

Major sponsors are already exempt from the usual P100,000 entry fee per team and will be allowed to field as many as five teams. Individual entry is P50,000.

In anticipation of a blown-up entry list, organizers have also scheduled two shotgun tee-offs, the first at 7 a.m. and the second at 12:30 p.m.

Team composition is four members and will be divided into four groups. An expected field of more than 100 teams will be disputing the overall team and individual titles as well as top honors in Groups I, II, III & IV.

Deadline for submission of entries is on June 24 at 5 p.m. The first 65 entries will be given priority.

Interested parties may call the following: Benjie Ramos (Tel. No. 8191211/Fax 8191207), Aimee Samaniego (8932971/8176955), Pablo Soon (7236481/7236480) and Bones Floro (7230665/7238558).

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Casas faces world's best

CASSIUS Casas will try to put behind a streak of struggling campaigns behind him when he competes against defending champion Retief Goosen, Tiger Woods and the rest of the world's best in the 102nd edition of the US Open golf championship in Farmingdale, New York, starting today.

His disastrous stints in the Asian Tour this year leaving a gaping hole in his pocket, Casas tees off at the 7,214-yard Black Course at Bethpage State Park as a replacement to the withdrawn Senior Tour standout Bruce Fleisher.

It was sheer luck for Casas who could have been on another plane heading back home if not for Fleisher's change of heart. Fleisher felt he wasn't ready to contend in a course that is considered the Tour's longest in memory.

Casas said he owes Fleisher a "thank you" note as he becomes the first Filipino ever to play in the US Open.

He is paired with Robert Karlsson of Sweden and American Billy Mayfair today and tomorrow.

Jong Arcano

SPORTSWATCH

Sign warns golfers

FARMINGDALE, New York —Bethpage State Park erected a sign on the first tee to let the public know what to expect. "Warning: The Black Course is an extremely difficult course which is recommended only for highly skilled golfers." There was no need to remove the sign just because the world's best players came by for the U.S. Open. "We all think of ourselves as highly skilled," Hal Sutton said Wednesday. "I guess we're about to find out." The charm of this U.S. Open is that it will be played for the first time on a truly public golf course that costs no more than $39 a round. Whether it's a public course or a ritzy country club is no longer an issue for Tiger Woods or the rest of the 156-man field. They just want to survive.

AP

Masters tilt set

THE CGU Asian Bowling Tour enters its fifth season when Asia's elites gather in Pearl Bowling Center for the Philippine leg. Top 14 bowlers in the masters finals of the 31st Boysen-PBC International Bowling Championships will be eligible to play in the two-day knock-out tournament on June 16-17. Singapore bowlers once again shone in the World Ranking Masters in May. Singapore retained the women's title when Jennifer Tan emerged the champion by beating teammate and the 2002 champion, Jesmine Ho.

Jr. tennis in Cebu

AFTER the successful completion of its seventh leg in Laoag City, the Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop moves to Cebu City for its eight leg, which will run from June 14-16. On its 12th straight year, the Milo Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop has helped a lot of youth from different parts of the country in developing their skills in tennis.

Barotac Nuevo wins

BAROTAC NUEVO, Iloilo—Host Barotac Nuevo nipped West Negros College with the help of a "golden goal" recently to bag the all-students title in the ongoing 9th Monfort Football Cup tournament at the Barotac field here. Barotac and WNC booters battled to a 1-1 tie at the end of regulation period, paving the way for the extension.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Well Noted 2. Court General 3. Triple Joy 4. Nuts Again

Race 2—1. Smart Boy 2. Make Sure 3. Boy from Brazil

Race 3—1. Nakagayak 2.Suterian Era 3. House Conquest

Race 4—1. Headline News 2. Brute Force 3. Duces Tecum 4. Perfect Nine 5. Golden Prince

Race 5—1. Terribly One 2. Apple Splash 3. Queen Storm 4. Sharp Bullet

Race 6—1. Bohemyo 2. Strong Element 3. Defense Minister 4. He's Splendid 5. The Mailman

Race 7—1. Sandata 2. Silakbo 3. Diabolo Don 4. Maralex 5. Mighty Mickey

Race 8—1. No Compromise 2. Exchange Deal 3. Picture Perfect

Race 9—1. Ticket to Fame 2. Cool Zam 3. D Barrister 4. D Optician 5. Impeccable 6. Classy Babe

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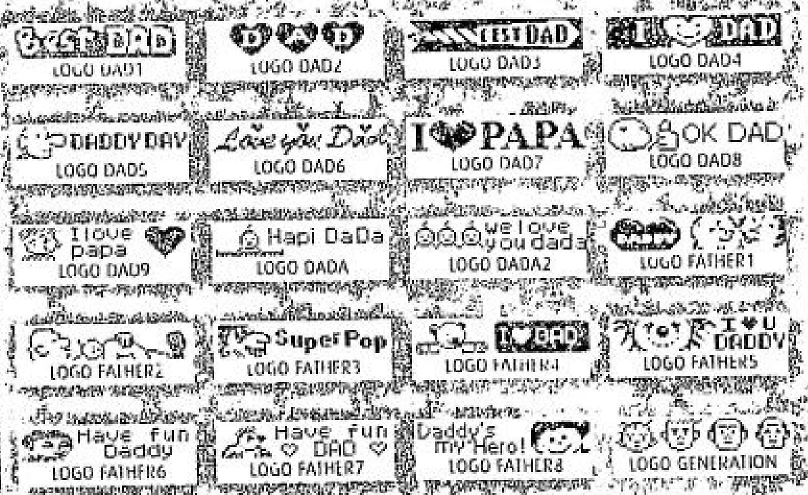
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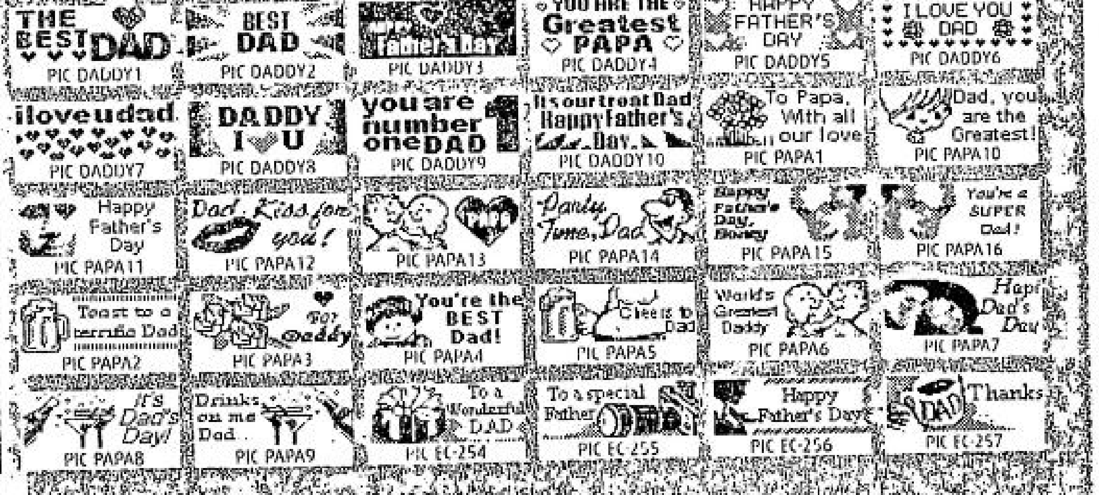
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Dad, Kiss for you!
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PIC PAPA13
Dandy Time, Dad
PIC PAPA14
Happy Father's Day, Honey
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PIC PAPA7
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PIC PAPA9
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PIC EC-254
To a special Father
PIC EC-255
Happy Father's Day
PIC EC-256
Thanks DAD
PIC EC-257

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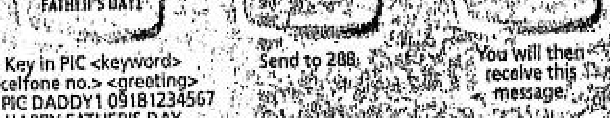
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METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

'Ativan Gang' strikes again

By Alcuin Papa and Norman Bordadora

THE DEATH of diplomat Chung Young-ho has tainted the image of the Philippines, the South Korean government said even as another foreigner, a Frenchman, fell prey to what police believe is the same group that killed the Korean.

In the latest case, the stranger was well-dressed and "gracious and nice," so Michael Hennequin of France went with him and his companions and accepted the canned juice they offered him.

He fell asleep after drinking the juice. That was Sunday. When he woke up, it was already Monday and he was in a hospital. He also found he had been robbed.

The Frenchman was attacked less than a week after Chung Young-ho, third secretary of the South Korean embassy, disappeared after he went with strangers who had also befriended him. He was found dead in Marikina City the day after he disappeared.

The foreign affairs minister of South Korea has summoned the Philippine ambassador to officially express the Korean government's concern for the safety of its nationals in the Philippines following Chung's death.

ATIVAN/ A26

Many WPD men 'trigger-happy,' says councilor

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MANILA councilor has urged the city council to investigate reports that many Western Police District lawmen are "trigger-happy and prone to violence."

Binondo Councilor Bernardito Ang said he was "alarmed" by the findings of Pamantasan ng Maynila president Dr. Benjamin Tayabas that many Manila policemen failed their "values formation" exam.

The test was part of the Services Induction and Reorientation (Sir) classes.

In yesterday's city council session, Ang cited

MANY WPD/ A26

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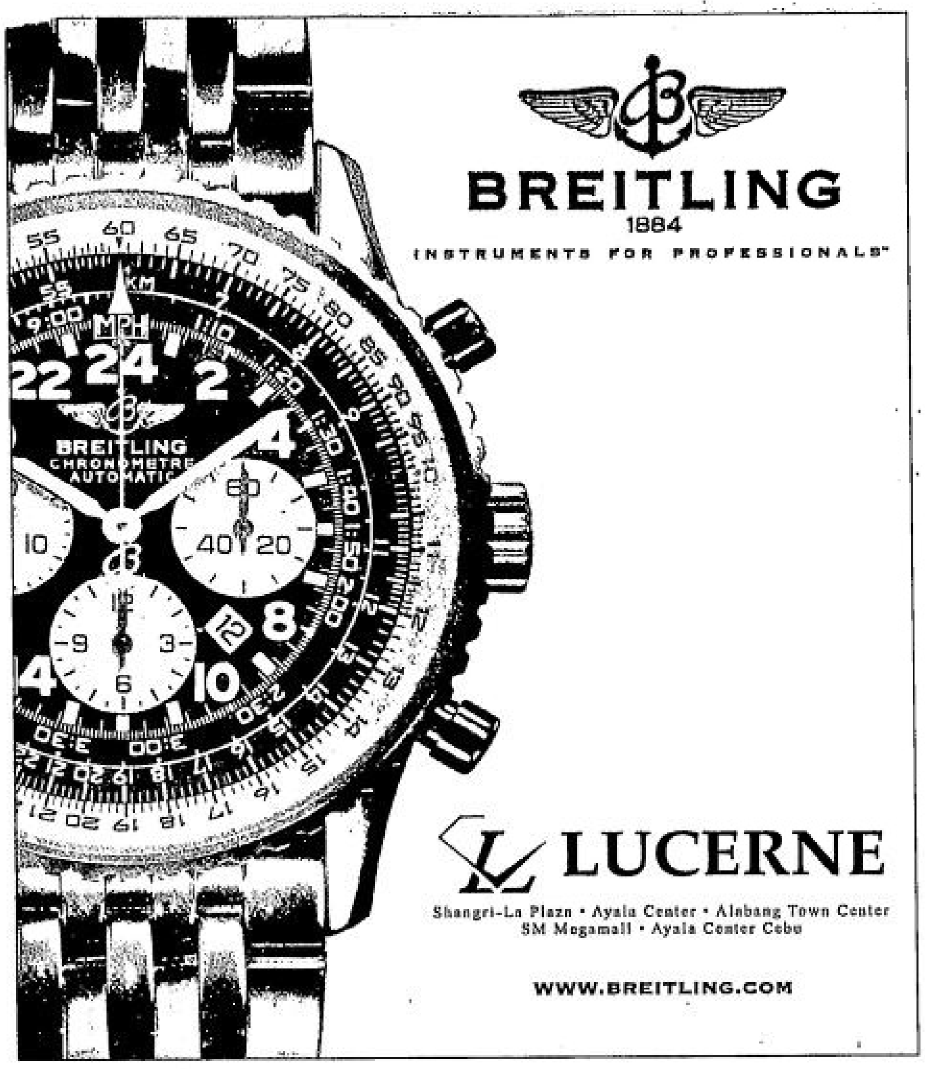
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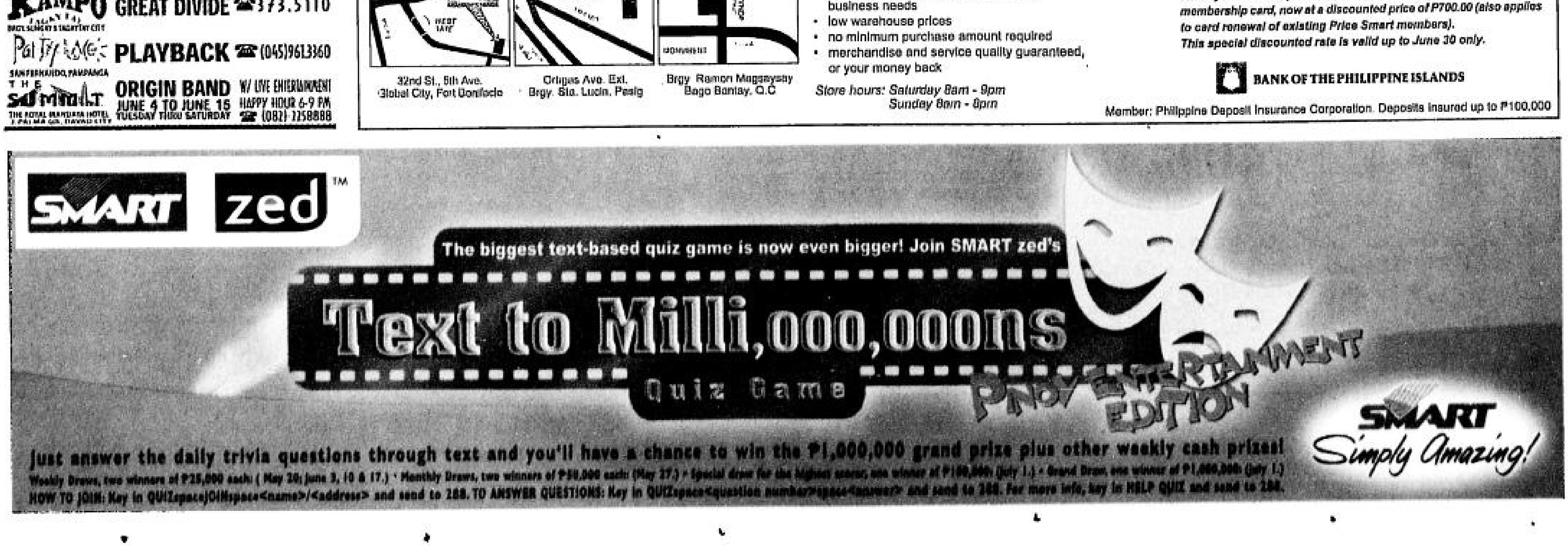
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Malabon hostage drama puts police to a test

By Tina Santos

BARELY two days after attending a seminar on crisis management, members of the Malabon City police force were put to a test when a drunken man held hostage a 13-year-old altar boy inside a church on Wednesday.

"We were immediately given a practical exam after the seminar," said the Malabon police chief, Supt. Pedro Ramos. "And I'm glad we did not become another Pasay."

He was referring to their rescue of altar boy Ronald Obispo, a student and resident of Tonsuya, Malabon, 30 minutes after Benjinito Salda took.him hostage.

He said Salda, 25, of Hizon Street in Tonsuya, grabbed Obispo at 5:15 p.m. while the boy and other altar boys of the San Antonio de Padua Parish Church on Sanciangco Street in Tonsuya were decorating a *carroza* at the church compound.

Ramos said Salda, who was apparently drunk, earlier attempted to take another child hostage. The child managed to break free so Salda went to the church and grabbed Obispo instead, police said.

Armed with a three-inch knife, Salda took the boy inside the comfort room of the church and asked for the parish priest, Rev. Father Raul Salgado, police said.

Father Salgado negotiated with Salda, who even asked the priest for advice on what he should do with his mother who berated him for being jobless.

During the negotiation, members of the Malabon police found the opportunity to apprehend Salda, said Ramos.

Obispo suffered a cut in a finger of his left hand and was treated at the Pagamutang Bayan ng Malabon, police said.

Salda, who suffered minor injuries, was also brought to the hospital, police added.

Before the incident, Salda had a heated argument with his mother who had asked his pregnant wife to do a task, police said. Salda's mother also nagged him for being jobless. He left the house and joined some neighbors in a drinking session. When he got drunk, he snatched Obispo, police said.

Ramos credited the seminar his force had attended for the rescue of Obispo. He said the seminar was really helpful.

Salda was charged with serious illegal detention, police said.

Strike hits Miriam College

By Agnes E .Donato

NON-TEACHING personnel of Miriam College yesterday went on strike to protest the retrenchment of 13 janitors and maintenance personnel as part of the school's cost cutting measures.

Mila Bilala, president of the Miriam College Union for Non-Academic Personnel, said she and 56 other remaining union members would stay in the picket line until the school administration takes back the retrenched employees.

Bilala also accused the administration of union-busting for offering employees an early retirement program (ERP) which reduced the number of union members from 115 to 57.

Miriam College president Dr. Patricia Licuanan admitted that the school had to resort to a retrenchment program to prevent "a serious financial problem."

She said the school was losing money and could not keep on raising tuition, which is too high already.

Bilala said that employees who are 50 years old or have served the school for at least 20 years were offered the ERP last November.

"We were assured that it was purely voluntary and those who would decide not to take the offer would not be retrenched," she said. "Some were convinced to take the package but others decided to stay." Bilala said that the deadline for availing themselves of the offer was repeatedly extended until the administration, in a complete turnaround, announced last March that those who take the ERP would be retrenched.

"What we're after here is job security. We may be too young to retire, but we're also too old to get another job," said Frank Abad, the only regular maintenance officer among the retrenched employees.

Janitors in Miriam College reportedly earn an average of P25,000. Bilala pointed out that they had worked for decades before they got this salary.

Licuanan said that the administration decided to cut expenses by lessening the number of employees and adopting the "outsourcing program" by signing into an agreement with service providing agencies.

"It (retrenchment) was not something we would have done if we were not forced to do it," she said. "It was very difficult, but it had to be done under the present circumstances."

'Ativan Gang' strikes . . .

From page A25

In the cases of the Frenchman and the South Korean as well as in at least three others involving three other foreigners since May 30, police suspect the Ativan Gang as the culprits.

Hennequin, a 53-year-old cattle breeder, has been living in Makati City and works for the French Ministry of Finance.

According to a report filed by Dasmari¤as, Cavite chief of police Chief Insp. John Bulalacao, Hennequin was found unconscious Monday afternoon on Leningrad Street in Greenbreeze II, Cityland Subdivision, Barangay Langkaan 2 in Dasmari¤as.

Hennequin was brought to the Dr. Jose Rizal National Medical Center in Dasmari¤as for treatment.

He later told police that he was at the Glorietta shopping center in Makati City Sunday afternoon when a man offered him a ride. He said the stranger claimed he has relatives in France and even asked if the Frenchman could help him contact his relatives.

The Frenchman said the man was well-dressed, had Japanese features and was "gracious and nice." He boarded the stranger's car, he said.

Hennéquin said that while they drove around, he was offered a can of juice which he drank. After several minutes, he fell asleep, he said.

It was already Monday when he regained consciousness and he was in the hospital.

He said he lost a sports watch, a pocket organizer, a credit card, P2,700, a total of $450 and 6,500 Indonesian rupiah, his French passport and a Nokia 5110 mobile phone.

Bulalacao said the Frenchman was most likely a victim of the Ativan Gang, whose members usually befriend their potential victims and offer them drinks spiked with the sleep-inducing drug Ativan before robbing them.

National Capital Region Police Office chief Deputy Dir. Gen. Edgar Aglipay and Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay have offered rewards for the arrest of Ativan Gang members.

South Korean embassy's third secretary Chung Young-Ho was believed abducted by the same group last Thursday. His body was found the next day in Marikina.

Also last Sunday, Japanese engineer Shushei Uchida was abducted in Makati City by the same group, police said.

On May 30, Broudo Gordechai of Israel was abducted, apparently by the same group, while he was waiting for a taxi ride at the Glorieta, police said.

In these cases, the victims were approached by a well-dressed man who introduced himself as a vice president of the Hongkong Shanghai Bank Corp., police said. While inside the stranger's car, the foreigners were offered canned juice that knocked them unconscious.

Last Saturday, two street vendors found New Zealander Peter Holyoeke unconscious on Jupiter Street, Makati. Police also believed that Holyoeke was a victim of the Ativan Gang.

The Makati City Police has formed "Task Force Ativan" to go after the suspects and to increase police visibility in the city.

Supt. Jovito Gutierrez, Makati City police chief, said they have identified the suspects already. "You have to understand that it is very difficult to nab the gang members," he said. "They seem very friendly when talking with their victims in public places, which makes them hard to spot."

He advised foreigners living in Makati "not to talk to people they don't know. If they see any suspicious-looking strangers, they should report them to the police."

Philippine Ambassador to South Korea Juanito Jarasa reported to the Department of Foreign Affairs that Korean Foreign Minister Choi Sung-Hong summoned him Thursday afternoon to convey his government's displeasure over the death of Chung Young-Ho in Manila.

Jarasa said that during the meeting that was witnessed by the media, Choi told him that Chung's death has tainted the image of the Philippines.

"He expressed hope that appropriate measures will be taken to ensure the safety of Korean diplomats as well as more than 20,000 Koreans residing in the Philippines," Jarasa said in his report.

Choi reportedly also told Jarasa that two other Koreans had also been victimized by groups that used the same modus operandi as the group that victimized Chung.

South Korean embassy first secretary Yong Soo-Lee had said Chung was the first Korean diplomat killed in a foreign country.

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BARE EYE

Recab Trinidad

Mr. Trinidad's column will be back on Monday.

PACQUIAO, flanked by Mayor Atienza and Councilor Kim Atienza, acknowledges the cheering crowd at the Manila City Hall. ERIK ARAZAS

'Pacquiao Day' declared

By Philip C. Tubeza

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday declared June 9 of every year as "Manny Pacquiao Day" in honor of the Filipino boxer who defeated his Colombian opponent to retain his world title last Sunday.

Pacquiao visited the Manila city hall yesterday as the city council also passed a resolution commending him for successfully defending his International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior featherweight title.

"Manny Pacquiao epitomizes the spirit of a true champion and a world-class Filipino athlete," Atienza said in his executive proclamation. "His performance as a top-caliber boxer serves to inspire budding Filipino athletes to be determined to train harder in their respective sports. "Starting out as a virtual unknown, Pacquiao, through hard work and perseverance, has risen from the grass-roots and has emerged an international boxing champion," Atienza added.

Many councilors said they were watching on television when Pacquiao defeated Colombian Jorge Elicier Julio at the Pyramid in Memphis, Tennessee, USA. One councilor even said he watched it thrice.

"Pacquiao, an adopted son of Manila, displayed tremendous skill and courage in his fight against Julio, dominating the bout and finally sensationally scoring a knockout victory. . . in the second round of the said title fight with a left straight to the chin before delivering a flurry of punches to finish off his rival," Atienza said.

Councilor Roberto Ortega Jr. also filed a resolution commending the boxer. His colleagues, acting as co-authors, passed the resolution.

"Manny Pacquiao's exemplary skills in boxing that many people around the world witnessed are proof that our beloved country, the Philippines, is a source of many great athletes," Ortega said in Filipino.

3 siblings die, 2 critical

THREE children died last week and their two other siblings are still in critical condition in Caloocan City.

Doctors said the victims suffered typhoid fever and pneumonia.

The Moniño siblings—Jennifer, 16, Irish, 12, and Jerome, 10—residents of Estrella Compound, a slum in GSIS Subdivision in Talipapa, Caloocan City, died after a few days of treatment for severe stomach pains and high fever last week.

Still under observation at the East Avenue Medical Center (EAMC) are their two siblings aged 9 and 1-1/2 years old.

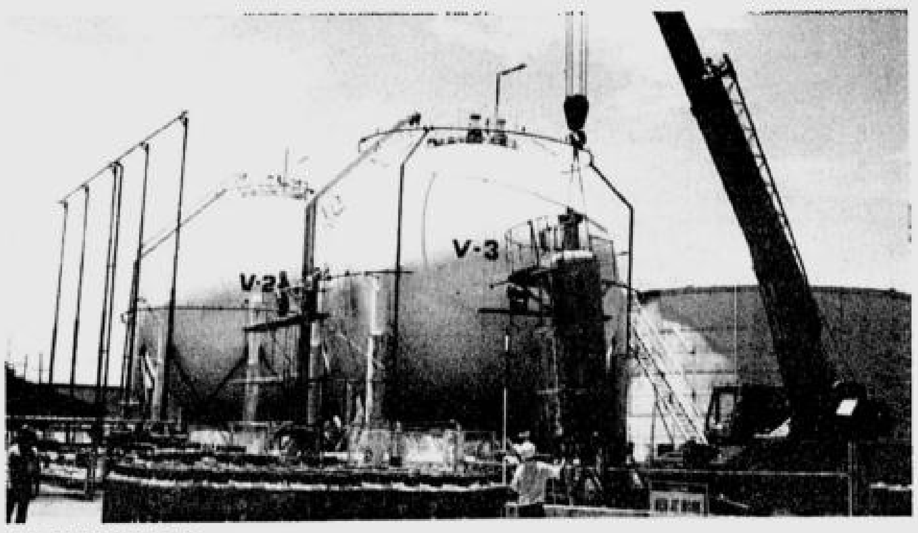
According to reports from the EAMC, the victims suffered typhoid fever and pneumonia, said barangay councilman Alfredo Ramos. But neighbors said the Moniños could have been poisoned by spoiled leftovers they collected from hotels in Quezon City.

The hospital has sent home 3-year-old Nicole, 6-month-old James, and their parents Jose, 38, and Nida, 36.

Ramos said he and other barangay leaders brought the nine members of the Moniño family to the hospital after they complained of stomach pains and high fever last week.

He said Jennifer, Irish and Jerome died a few days later. Their remains are lying in their shanty.

Tina Santos



DISMANTLING

Workers remove the stench tank and water sprinklers around the two LPG spheres of Pilipinas Shell Petroleum at the Pandacan oil depot, before they tear down the steel structures. Shell says the spheres will be replaced by a "green buffer zone." The move is expected to address security and safety threats to the depot, according to the oil firm.

Many WPD men . . .

From page A25

how 171 policemen, out of 213 who took the course, failed in the exam. Many of them flunked because they did not know Manila's geography and ordinances, he said.

But he said he was more concerned about those who did not pass the course "because of their psychological condition."

"This is what is frightening," Ang said. "The (results) revealed that many policemen are prone to violence and are trigger-happy. Those who we expect to defend us, are the ones who would start trouble and kill.

"What happened in Pasay City was a revelation. If we don't give this attention and something like that happens in Manila, we will also be blamed, and not just police officials."

Ang urged the city council to devote a special session to tackle this issue. He said Tayabas and WPD Director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. should also be invited to this session.

Ang said he himself heard of a complaint against a certain Danny de la Cruz, an alleged deputy of Manila traffic chief Supt. Elmer Jamias.

He said that at one time, the deputy allegedly demanded a dish in a restaurant. When the owners refused, traffic enforcers impounded the restaurant's two vehicles.

He said if the reports proved to be true, "there should be a total revamp of the police force, or the city would withdraw its (P1,000) incentive (for each Manila lawman)."

Pasinos told reporters last week that those who took the tests were newly assigned policemen from the provinces.

He explained it was not surprising that many failed since the tests were meant to reveal the extent of the policemen's knowledge. He said the course would then be adjusted so it could address these deficiencies.

Pasinos said one policeman did not recognize Mayor Lito Atienza, while another did not know Atienza's "Buhayin ang Maynila" program.

N'SYNC. "Celebrity" is the group's latest release.

N'Sync double CD in limited edition

THE LIMITED edition repackaged "Celebrity" album from N'Sync has a lot to offer for the same price. The double CD version contains a bonus VCD featuring "Pop," "Gone" and "Girlfriend" music videos, plus previously unreleased tracks including dance mixes of "Pop" and "Gone," the Spanish version of "Gone" and the current single, "Girlfriend" remix with Nelly.

The "Celebrity" album has sold five million copies in the United States alone.

Universal Records reports that it has already been certified platinum in the country and is now fast approaching double-platinum mark.

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3	

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3	DISKARTE

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3	MAGKAPATID
4	DISKARTE

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(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

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8	MAMASAN
9	DISKARTE
10	MAGKAPATID
11	SUPER B
12	UTANG NI TATANG

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4	SUPER B
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6	MAGKAPATID
7	RESIDENT EVIL
8	A WALK TO REMEMBER
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	DISKARTE
5	CASS & CARY
6	UTANG NI TATANG
7	SUPER B
8	RESIDENT EVIL
9	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
10	MAGKAPATID

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5	CASS & CARY
6	LIGAYA PANTASYA . . .
7	SUPER B
8	MAGKAPATID

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2	CLOSED
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	SUPER B
5	I THINK I'M LOVE
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7	CLOSED
8	PANIC ROOM

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4	SUPER B

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10	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

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5	PANIC ROOM
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LARUSSO SPINS ANOTHER HIT WITH AXS

French dance diva Larusso got Manila up on its feet with her hit "On Ne S'aimera Plus Jamais." Recently, she came out with her second self-titled album featuring the singles "EntreNous" and "Tous Unis (Give Me Love)." Larusso gets ready to spin off another big hit in AXS, Mossimo's new fashion line which she endorses. AXS offers all-original and high-quality backpacks, ladies' bags and wallets made of imported materials. Mossimo is a familiar name and the brand of choice of the style-conscious crowd. It is a proud moment for the clothing brand which originated in Los Angeles and was the brainchild of Italian designer Mossimo Gianulli.

Loren tries docu-talk and public service format

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE CRIME-DRAMA format did not turn out to be the "forte" of Sen. **Loren Legarda**, who hosted multi-awarded tele-magazine shows and documentary programs in the past.

She realized that when she did "Kabalikat," the crime-drama series which ran on TV for only nine months.

"Kabalikat" marked Loren's return to weekly TV when it aired in April last year. But it's just unfortunate that the show was short-lived.

"ABS-CBN had to cut cost that's why the program was cancelled," Loren explains. "The production required a huge budget weekly so it had to stop airing. But management assured me another program when 'Kabalikat' was cancelled last December."

This time, Loren returns in a public service program, "Loren: Kabalikat Natin," which will air on ANC, ABS-CBN's 24-hour cable channel.

"This one has a different format," Loren informs. "It's docu-talk and at the same time public service."

ANC managing director **Jake Maderazo** informs "Loren: Kabalikat Natin" will feature real people making actual progress in their communities. The program also aims to inspire viewers with the stories of heroic individuals and the extraordinary obstacles they overcome to make a difference in the lives of others.

Loren says her new show will also aim to act as facilitator or mediator between the government and all the marginalized sectors that don't have a voice in society.

"In the day to day activities that I do, whether I'm at home, in my Makati office or in the senate, people come to me with a wide range of requests," Loren says. "We want to let the people know that they have a voice now through this show."

Loren, however, points out she is not out to make false promises in the show.

"It's difficult to say promises I cannot keep," she maintains.

In her previous shows, Loren went beyond featuring the people who needed help.

In "Kabalikat," she was able to help **Joseph Posito** leave the mining camp in Parakale, Camarines Sur, where he became a victim of child labor.

Today, 14-year-old Joseph is one of the 23 scholars of Libro ni Loren Foundation.

Eight years ago, **Sharon Cuneta** interviewed a poor student, **Melinda de Vera**, for a special anniversary episode of Loren's "The Inside Story." Melinda was born and raised in a *kariton*, where she lived with her mother in Paco, Manila.

After the episode was aired, Loren "adopted" Melinda and financed the girl's college education. Melinda finished a computer course and now works in Loren's senate office.

"Everyday of my life I come across little stories," Loren shares. "These people keep my feet on the ground. They make me want to reach out more to them and give them hope. Now that I am in the government, maybe I can help them more."

"Loren: Kabalikat Natin" was conceptualized based on the term paper of ANC public affairs manager **David Celdran**, about civic journalism. He wrote it when he went on a scholarship program in Japan.

"I hope this show could find a place on Philippine TV," Loren says.

"Loren: Kabalikat Natin" will air every Saturday, 7 to 8 p.m. on ANC, starting June 29. The program will have an AM-radio counterpart on *dzMM*, although not on a simulcast airing.

"Loren: Kabalikat Natin" is produced by ANC with support from a movement of student volunteers from different mass communication colleges in the country.

Cozy piano bar

HAS 5060, the cozy piano bar owned by Bergamo's **Mel Meer** in Filmore St., Pasay City (near Cash and Carry), been closed?

Last week, we made two attempts to visit 5060, but on both instances, the place was not open for business.

My friends and I discovered 5060 as an ideal and intimate night haunt, especially if you love to sing. It gives a different ambiance than a videoke bar because at 5060, you can sing live.

There are two versatile pianists—**Bojo** and **Nonoy**—who alternate on different nights. Every time we were there, we never failed to "abuse" them.

The pianists have thick songbooks of tunes from which one can choose a piece he wants to sing.

I had a grand time when I saw the old songs of **Melissa Manchester**—"Fire in the Morning" and "We Could Have It All"—which are rarely heard even on radio these days.

And if you want to surprise a friend who's celebrating his birthday there, you can even sing to him **Elvis Presley**'s "Teddy Bear."

My friend **Vlad** displayed the voice which made him a Kundirana member in La Salle Greenhills and sang **Frank Sinatra** tunes, **Joe Cocker**'s "You Are So Beautiful" and the sentimental ballad, "Of All the Things."

LEGARDA. She wants to reach out more and give hope through her new TV program.

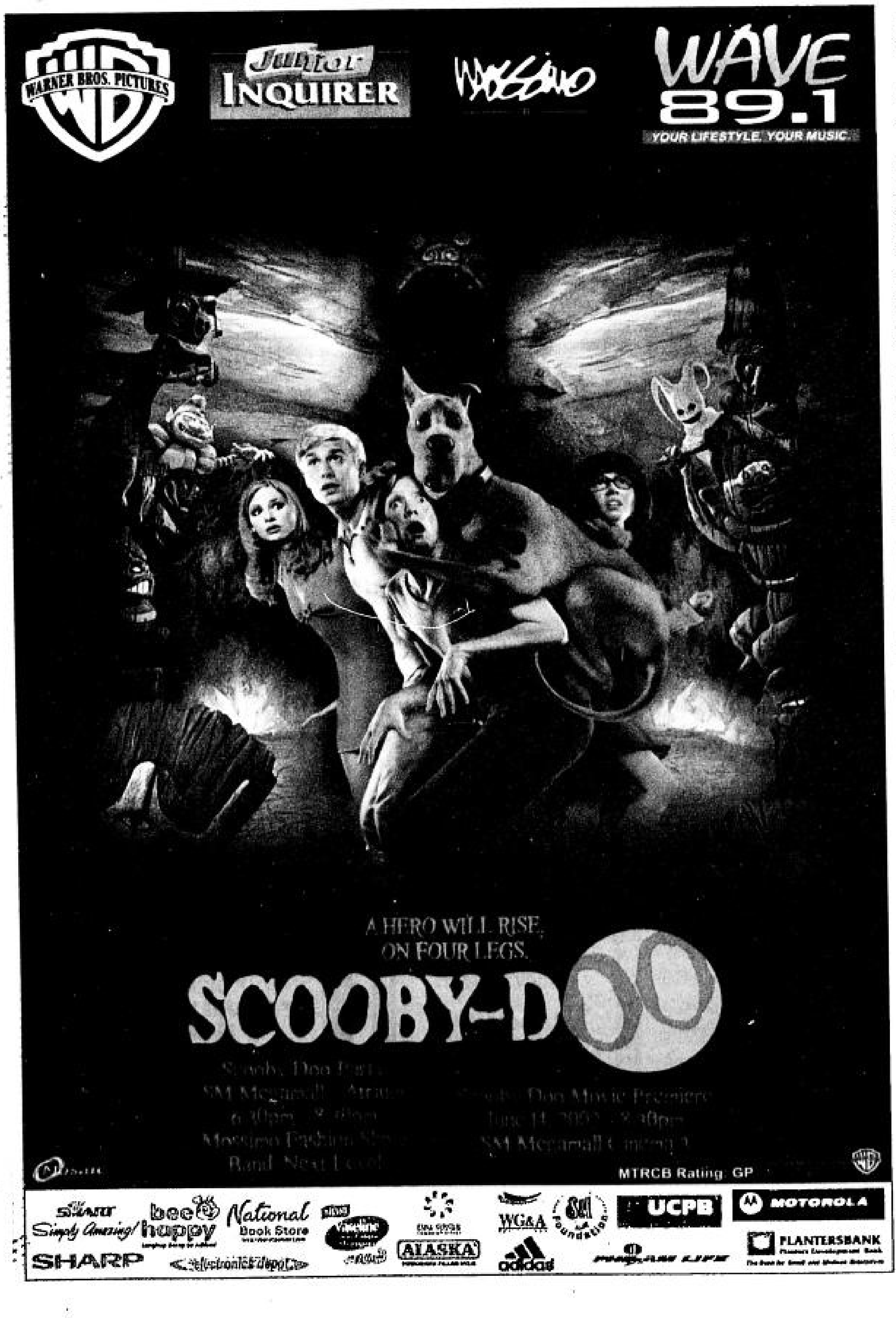
Designer **Frederick Peralta**, who can give seasoned balladeers a run for their money in case he decides to have a second career, crooned **Nonoy Zuñiga**'s hits. With our friend **Ivy**, he did a duet of "With You I'm Born Again."

For her part, Ivy rendered "Till There Was You" and "My Funny Valentine," which she dedicated to her "*bibi*" **Jeff**.

Frederick and my other friend **Shirley** later did a beautiful, heart-rending duet of "Bakit Ngayon Ka Lang."

5060 has tasteful interiors yet the place is not at all intimidating. The food is also good. My favorite is their angel hair pesto with *calamari*, which my friends attest to be "*panalo*." My friend **Susan** also liked the sizzling *sisig*.

My friends and I hope 5060 is not permanently closed. Otherwise, it might take some time before we find another ideal piano bar where we can sing the night away.



Gordon facilitates RP filming of Brad Pitt starrer

IN THE 1980s, the filming in the Philippines of Francis Ford Coppola's "Apocalypse Now" and Oliver Stone's "Platoon," two movies about the Vietnam war, became a source of pride for Filipinos.

Now, Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon has worked to once more put the Philippines into the international moviemaking map by luring a Hollywood production to shoot another war movie in the country.

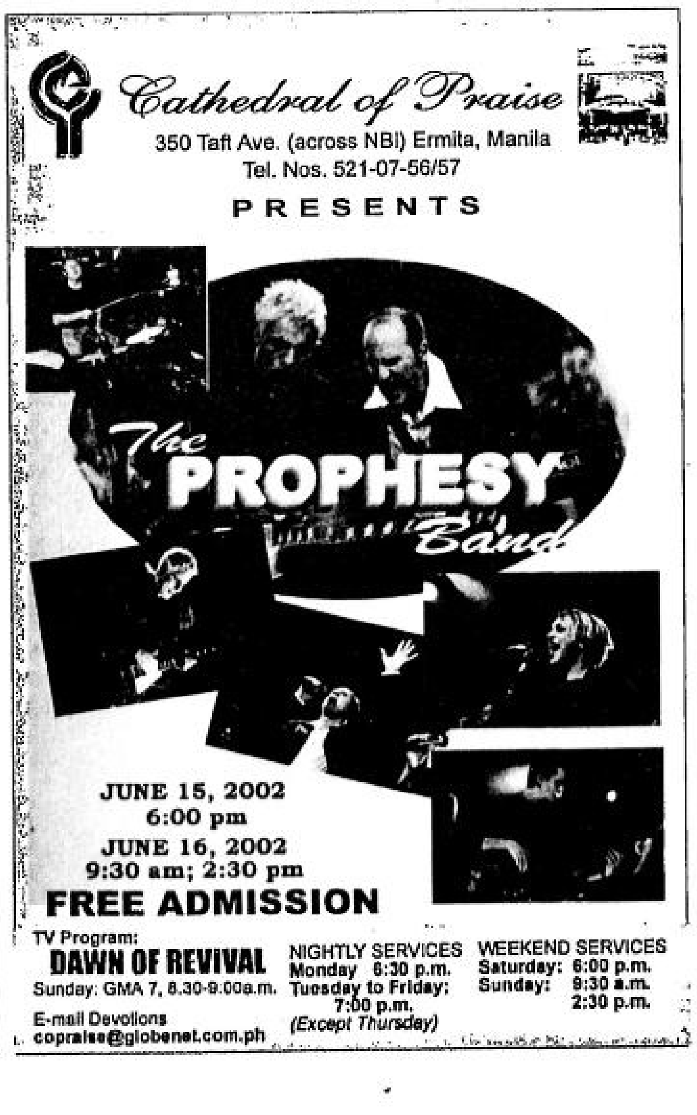
Gordon said the movie about World War II, tentatively titled "Fertig," will star Brad Pitt, whose credits include "Legends of the Fall," "12 Monkeys," "Spy Game," "Interview with the Vampire," "Ocean's 11," "A River Runs Through It" and "Devil's Own."

"The film will provide a good opportunity to promote the Philippines internationally," said Gordon:

The DOT chief has been trying to get other international film producers to shoot in Manila.

Gordon also wants to invite the Tom Cruise-starrer, "Ghost Soldiers," to film in the Philippines. The movie is based on a highly acclaimed novel with the same title about the sufferings of Bataan Death March soldiers.

In convincing Hollywood firms to shoot their movies in the country, Gordon sought the help of US Defense Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz who is a long-time friend.



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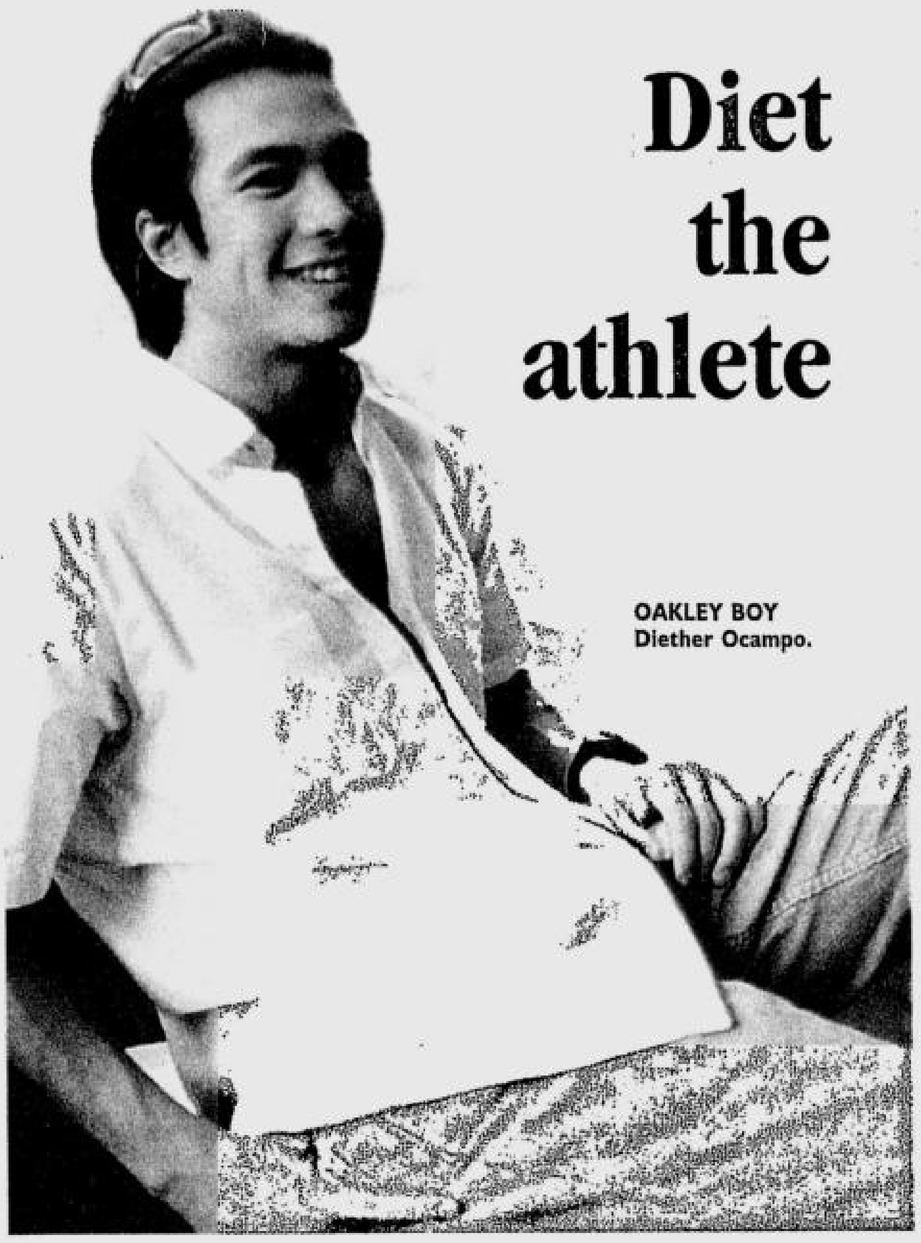
Diet the athlete



OAKLEY BOY
Diether Ocampo.

DIETHER Ocampo is widely known for his TV appearances in such shows as "Asap" and "Recuerdo de Amor" and for being one of the Hunks. But there is more to Diet, as he is fondly called by fans and friends.

He is a serious sportsman who is into such rugged sports as motocross racing, biking, wakeboarding, hunting and surfing.

He is, in fact, actively initiating a new sport.

"Next summer, I'll be introducing kite boarding," he says. "The kite boarding craze actually started in Japan but I first learned about it in Hawaii, where I had a recent concert with the Hunks. It's one of the most popular sports in Hawaii. Instead of being attached to a speedboat, you're actually attached to a kite, which pulls you on the water."

He is also fond of sailing. "Whenever I am free, I go sailing in Batangas. I motor all the way to the Taal Yacht Club and spend an entire day out on the sea."

When he went into motocross, he placed third in his first attempt. In the hobbie cat race Boracay challenge, his team also placed third.

"We were up against professionals," Diet recalls. "That was quite a feat because we were just beginners. But I was also quite fortunate to have a national champion (Nestor Soriano) as my partner."

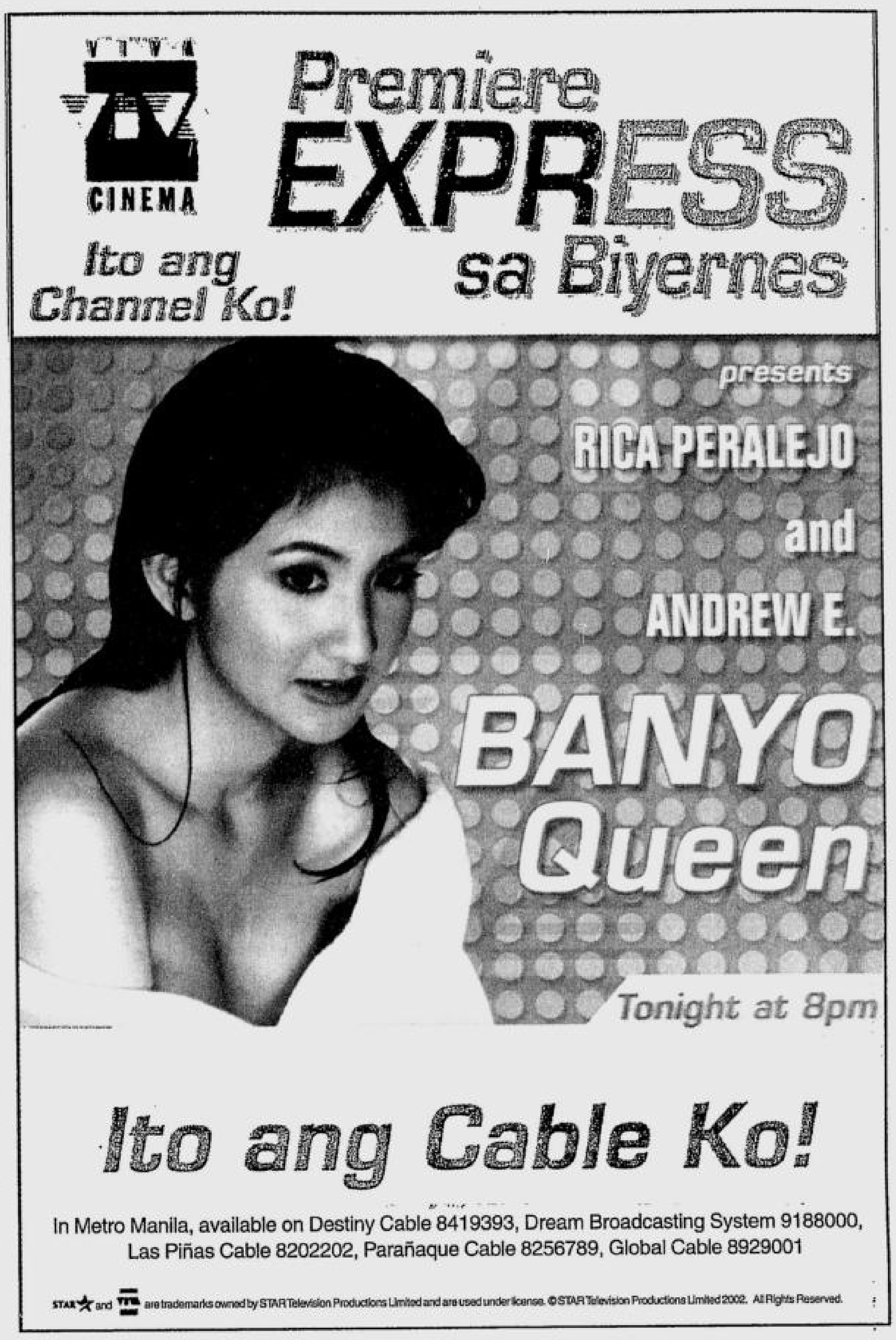
Diet says you need shades when you go sailing "to protect your eyes because you'll be under the sun the whole day."

For eyewear, he prefers Oakley, particularly the Wire Tap. "It has to be durable, something that can protect me from the harsh elements."

Oakley and Diet share several traits: masculine, modern, sleek, sexy and tough.

NEW 'WEAKEST LINK' EPISODES START AIRING MONDAY

"The Weakest Link," the phenomenal game show hosted by Edu Manzano, will start airing new episodes on Monday, June 17, 9 p.m. on IBC 13. A fire gutted the Parañaque studio where the show was being taped, so "The Weakest Link" had to air replays the past few weeks. But construction on the new set is now finished so new episodes had been taped. "The Weakest Link," produced by Viva Television, is the Philippine version of the British game show that took the world by storm more than a year ago. Auditions are now being held at the Viva office at 334 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.



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Elvis poised to hit No. 1 in UK with remix

LOS ANGELES—The king is back. Elvis Presley, who has battled the Beatles for the most No. 1 hits on the UK charts, is poised to grab the crown with a new version of an obscure tune that barely charted when it first came out 34 years ago, RCA officials said on Wednesday.

A dance remix of "A Little Less Conversation," which Presley performed in his 1968 film "Live a Little, Love a Lot," has been drawing brisk sales and heavy radio airplay in Britain since it was released there as a single on Monday.

The recording is expected to top the British singles charts next week, breaking the long-running tie between Presley and the Beatles for the most No. 1 hits in the United Kingdom, which currently stands at 17 apiece, an RCA spokesman said.

The original version of the song reached No. 69 on the U.S. singles charts in 1968 and failed to chart at all in Britain.

But the record books will contain an asterisk, as the new recording takes some liberties with the song as it was originally performed by the King of Rock 'n' Roll.

PRESLEY

The updated version of "A Little Less Conversation" adds a minute-long electronic introduction, surrounds Presley's vocals with new rhythms and beats and extends the song with dance loops and techno tracks.

"If you hear the first minute of the song, you would have no idea that it's Elvis. It sounds like a techno song," said RCA general manager Richard Sanders. "And when you hear his voice kick in, it's like, 'Oh, my, that's Elvis!'"

Sanders said it marks the first contemporary remix of Presley's music allowed by RCA, a unit of Bertelsmann AG's BMG.

RCA owns rights to the original master recordings of Presley's entire catalog, a spokesman said.

The six-minute-plus recording is the work of popular Amsterdam-based DJ and producer JXL. He was licensed by RCA and Elvis Presley Enterprises to remix the song for the soundtrack to Nike's $90 million worldwide ad campaign tied to the World Cup soccer tournament.

The full-length remix, a three-minute version edited for radio and the original version of the song are all contained on the single, which is due for release in the United States on June 25.

The original song also appeared last year on the soundtrack to the hit movie "Ocean's Eleven," which starred George Clooney and Brad Pitt.

Presley is likely to return to the charts again this fall when RCA releases a one-CD collection of 30 of his No. 1 hits to commemorate the 25th anniversary of his death. That album, titled "Elvis 30 # 1 Hits" is due out Sept. 24 in the US.

He died on Aug. 16, 1977, in Memphis, Tennessee at age 44. *Reuters*

Prince of magic back at Enchanted park

AFTER a series of well-received performances at the recently concluded anniversary celebration of Enchanted Kingdom, Las Vegas-based magician and illusionist Jeff Simon once again enthralls everyone with his masked artistry and world of magic on Saturdays and Sundays at the world-class theme park.

Simon will perform his spellbinding mask artistry and tricks in an energetic show of dance and theater.

Show tickets are at P75. Show time is 4 and 7 p.m.

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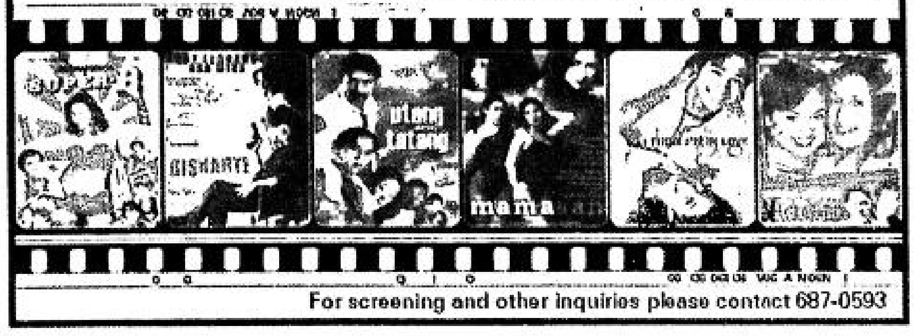

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2 MAGKAPATID	2 40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER	2 A WALK TO REMEMBER 12:00, 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:10, 11:15	2 MAGKAPATID
3 SUPER B	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 12:00	3 MAGKAPATID	3 PANIC ROOM 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	3 MURDER BY NUMBERS
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	5 STAR WARS		5 DRAGONFLY 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	5 I THINK I'M IN LOVE
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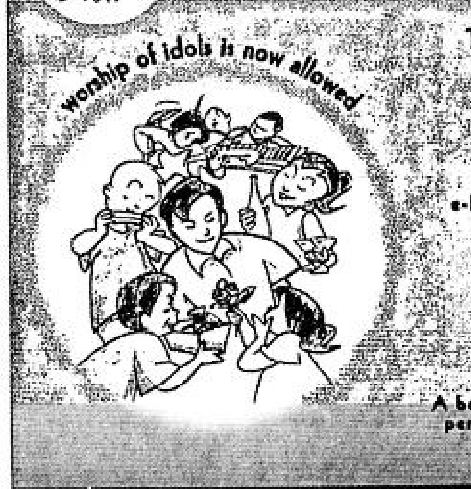
worship of idols is now allowed

The Ayala Malls Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

The Ayala Malls Father's Day Events
Makati
Nickelodeon Kids Choice Awards Snick-A-Pick Party
June 16, 4 pm, Glorietta Activity Center
Video Me Daddy, Daddy & Me Picture, e-Postcards, Father's Day Card Making Contest
June 10-16, e-Lounge Glorietta 2
Alabang
Motor Town 2002 Car Show
June 10-19, Activity Center
Live Entertainment by Silk Band
June 15, Activity Center
Cebu
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I THINK I'M IN LOVE
PIOLO
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GLORIA ROMERO LUIS GONZALES
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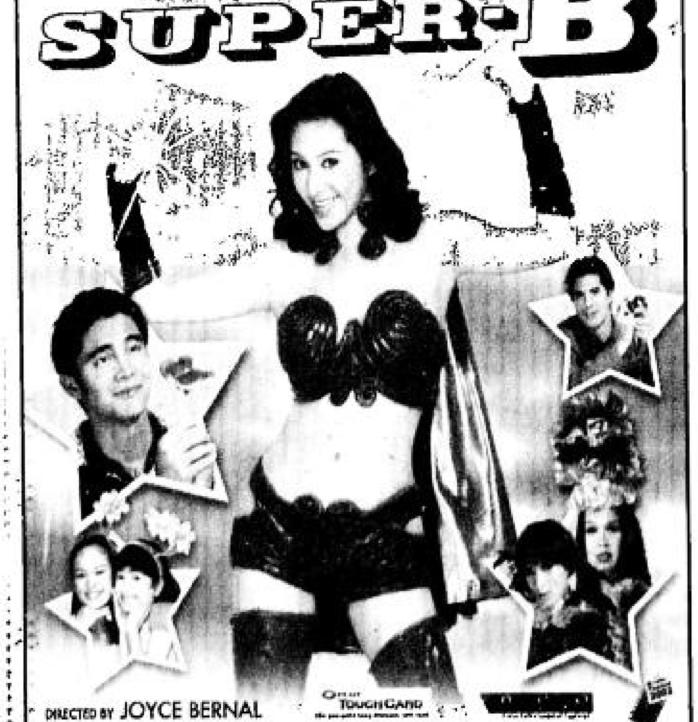

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parents or adult
KELAN KA BA HULING TUMAWA, KASAMA ANG BUONG PAMILYA?
PWES 'ETO NA SI SUPER-B
HATID AY ALIW AT SAYA
SA MANILA FILM FIESTA!
MARVIN AGUSTIN
MELANIE MARQUEZ MYLENE DIZON TROY MONTERO
RUFA MAE QUINTO IS
SUPER-B
DIRECTED BY JOYCE BERNAL
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MTRCB RATING GP GENERAL PATRONAGE | ALL AGES ADMITTED
APAT NA BIGATING PANGALAN
ISANG PELIKULANG 'DI MALILIMUTAN
CHRISTOPHER DE LEON DINGDONG DANTES
SHARON CUNETA JUDY ANN SANTOS
MAGKAPATID
DIRECTED BY JOEL LAMANGAN
FUJIFILM VIVA
NOW SHOWING MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING R-18 | Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.
The only flaw in their plan was her
SANDRA BULLOCK
Murder by Numbers

Competition from television

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FILIPINO movies continue to languish, while local television channels are doing much better, thank you. It used to be that those two situations were regarded as separate, but more show biz people these days are realizing that they are in fact closely linked, in a cause-and-effect relationship summed up by this new, adjusted paraphrase: Filipino movies continue to languish *because* of the strong competition provided by television.

The logic goes this way: Decades ago, the view was that movie stars should stay away from the television, because their frequent exposure on the small screen would erode their appeal on the big screen.

If movie stars could be seen for free on TV, why would people want to pay good money to watch their films in moviehouses?

At first, some stars scoffed at this view, because they regarded their guest stints on TV as "publicity" for their movies. These days, however, movie stars are being seen so frequently on TV that they have become overexposed, and some fans no longer want to see them on the big screen.

The problem worsens: since fewer movies are being made, many movie stars are jobless, so they're found work on TV, topbilling sitcoms and even hosting show biz talk shows.

This is OK as a stop-gap measure. Trouble is, as the movie stars get overexposed on TV, this could in fact further compromise their appeal in the movies, thus further reducing the possibility of their being tapped to make movies again anytime soon.

True, the really big stars can balance careers on TV and in the movies. But the lesser stars are less bankable, and therefore more prone to the ones of overexposure on TV. And their numbers are legion.

To further aggravate the situation, movie stars can be seen on TV not just in shows, but also in the many reruns of their old movies, on free and cable TV channels. This adds to their level of visibility on TV, and consequently to their level of overexposure.

Many years ago, movie producers were being dissuaded from selling the TV rights to their films precisely to avoid the of overexposure, but most of them eventually "succumbed" to the tempting prospect of additional income from their old productions.

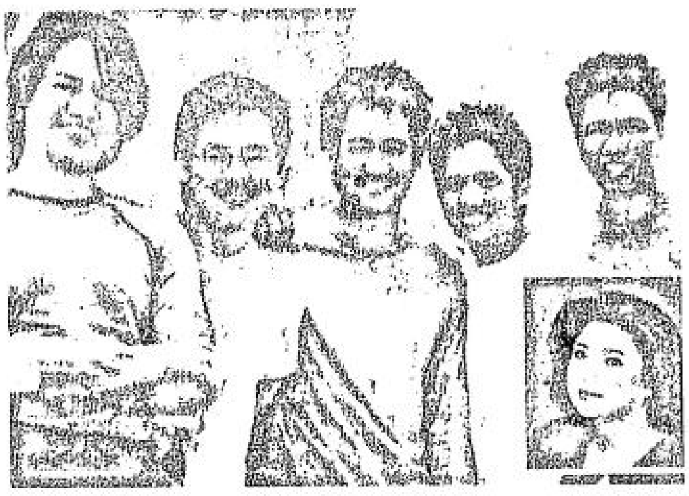
These days, however, these and other shortsighted decisions have caught up with the Filipino movie industry, vis-a-vis its relationship with television.

The picture has become starkly clear: Television is competition, and its success has resulted in the reduced appeal of local movie productions. To reverse this trend, movie luminaries below superstar status should think long-range and limit their exposure on TV.

This includes their making themselves available for extended interviews and features on show biz talk shows on TV, aside from plugging their new films.

Much too often these days, movie stars' popularity is being exploited by these shows for their own ends—in other words, not to boost the stars' new films, but to raise the TV shows' ratings. Movie stars should really inhibit themselves from being so "available" to those shows in this regard.

True, controversy and scandal sell, but the stars involved must be clear on precisely what the focus on controversies involving them is really meant to sell.



SIDE A CONCERT POSTPONED

Due to unavoidable circumstances, "Side A by the Bay," the concert of Side A band with singer-comedienne Marissa Sanchez scheduled tonight, will be moved to Aug. 16 at the same venue, Le Pavillon, along Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. All tickets dated June 14 will be honored on Aug. 16. Tickets available at Grand Boulevard Hotel.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	DISKARTE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAMASAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SUPER B
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	UTANG NI TATANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	MAGKAPATID
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	DISKARTE
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	TEMPTRESS AFFAIR / SAKIM NA PAG IBIG
ODEON	DISKARTE
ODEON-2	MAMASAN
ROBEN	SUPER 8
TANDEM-1	ITLOG
TANDEM-2	IKA-7 GLORYA
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MAMASAN
REMAR	DISKARTE
REMAR-2	MAMASAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	DISKARTE
B	MAGKAPATID
C	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-2	FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	MAMASAN
CINEMA-3	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SUPER B
CINEMA-6	UTANG NI TATANG
CINEMA-7	CASS & CARY
CINEMA-8	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	KILABOT AT KEMBOT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-12	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
CINEMA-14	DISKARTE
CINEMA-15	SUPER 8
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	STAR WARS EPISODE 2
CINEMA-2	DRAGONFLY
CINEMA-3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
CINEMA-4	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-5	PANIC ROOM
CINEMA-6	A WALK TO REMEMBER
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

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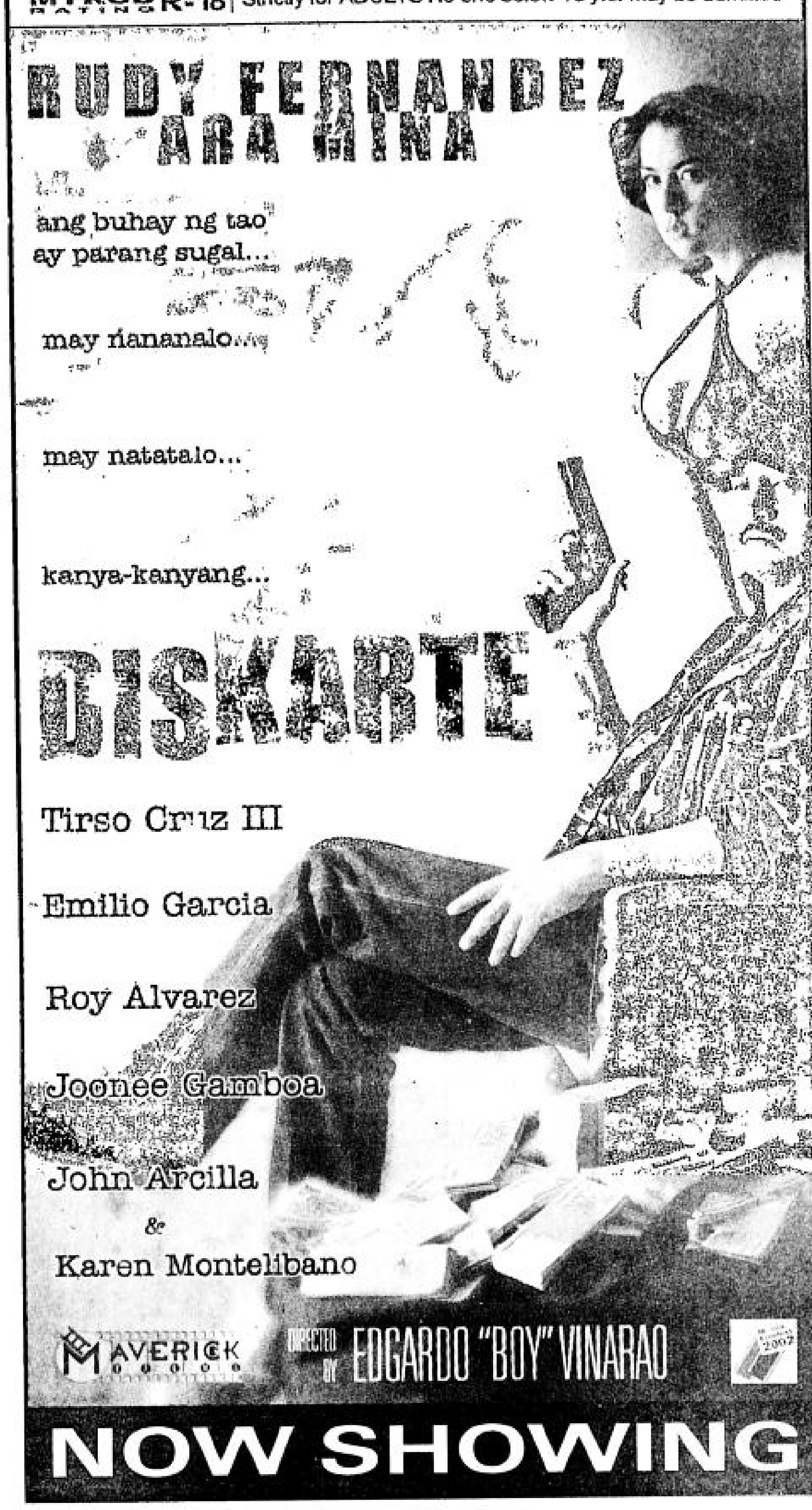

RUDY FERNANDEZ
ARA MINA

ang buhay ng tao ay parang sugal...
may nananalo...
may natatalo...
kanya-kanyang...

DISKARTE

Tirso Cruz III
Emilio Garcia
Roy Alvarez
Joonee Gamboa
John Arcilla
&
Karen Montelibano

MAVERICK
DIRECTED BY EDGARDO "BOY" VINARAO

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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

DRAGONFLY - P13	STAR WARS - GP	MURDER BY NUMBERS - R18
11:00, 1:10, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40	12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:00
MAGKAPATID - GP	**PANIC ROOM - R 18**	**A WALK TO REMEMBER - GP**
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50	12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 7:25, 9:45	11:00, 1:10, 3:25, 5:40, 7:55, 10:10

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2 MURDER BY NUMBERS
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
P 13

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BEST ACTRESS - HALLE BERRY

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MONSTER'S BALL
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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Hey Kids, it's
Dad's Day!!!
Now it's your turn to treat Dad on his special Day. Give him FREE caricature drawing of his face*, watch a puppet show together, or simply go bonding with all the exciting rides, video games, and lots of fun activities at the coolest and most exciting amusement theme parks in town for the whole family.

June 16 (Sunday)

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Dream Town
Level 3 Robinsons Place Manila
Pedro Gil St., Ermita Manila
302-0076 or 302-0084

** For the first 20 Dream Day ticket holders at Dreamscape & Dream Town*

My latest heartbreak: I found my match, and more

KRIS AND TELL

Kris Aquino

I HAD written a totally different column for today, where I spilled my guts, and then I decided to scrap it.

The mega doses of antibiotics and other medicines has tempered my initial impulsive act. I'm writing this column now in my room at the Makati Medical Center, almost directly across from the room of **Jinggoy (Estrada)**. Dr. **Aye Nuguid**, who's actually a pediatrician by specialization but is a great friend, referred me to Dr. **Ron Aquino**, a pulmonary specialist. I've been having upper respiratory infections almost monthly and they decided to admit me to give me blood tests and chest x-rays, as well as a tuberculin test to rule out the possibility of primary complex.

(Aye was scolding me for typing on my laptop even with my IV still attached.)

Let me thank all my friends who sent me text messages after reading my previous piece.

Friends of friends, too, who somehow could relate with what I was and am still going through. For all those who were curious about the identities of the men alluded to, I'm pretty sure your guesses were quite accurate.

Regarding the man I referred to as "my first love," yes, a man can affect you deeply even after many years, because he's the leading man of your life story with all the missing chapters. But time passes, and you do recover when you're released from all your what-ifs. You finally realize that there's no need to answer those questions. That you both didn't give the relationship enough of a chance is all the answer you'll ever need.

Best shot

I should appreciate the man who caused my most recent heartbreak because he stayed long enough for both of us to have no unanswered questions. We gave it our best shot but we just couldn't reconcile some fundamental differences.

He felt that loving him would mean I'd try my best to fit the mold of what he deemed was the partner he knew he needed after all the journeys he'd already taken. I felt that if he loved me enough, he'd willingly break that mold for me.

He was right when he said that in the few months we were seeing each other, he did spend more time waiting for me to finish work than we actually spent doing couple things together.

True, you don't build a relationship over coffee at 2 a.m., not when one of you started his day at 8 a.m. dealing with people from all walks of life, and one of you is mentally and vocally exhausted from taping three successive episodes.

It hung over our heads when people would unfairly jump to the conclusion that he meant to use me for political gain. It prompted him to say out of exasperation that being in a relationship with me was already causing him to sacrifice so much of his ego and his manhood.

Expectations

We are at different points of our lives, and we came into each other's lives with different expectations. He said he had achieved all that he'd aspired for professionally, and I was still enjoying the day-to-day challenge of proving myself worthy and maintaining my shows' No. 1 ratings.

It's really a problem when you're prepared to give everything to your work: You have little left to give a new commitment.

He had a lover-boy reputation to live down, and I was predisposed to believe the worst. He still carried residual pain from his past, and he would see some of my actions through the mist of his bitter heartbreak.

Our ability to have thought-provoking, free-wheeling discussions was what initially attracted us to each other. It was also our relationship's undoing. I met my match and more, when it comes to being frank and outspoken. I just couldn't rebuild our bridges after he said, "There are times when I just can't stand you."

It was one of the most painful statements I've ever had to hear. Even if it was just a bad choice of words, the truth is, how can you profess to love someone that you can't stand?

He must have imbibed quite a few of my habits, particularly expressing his feelings by relating it to a song. I should have realized that the end was near when he told me he had spent an entire two-hour drive listening to **James Ingram**'s "Just Once" over and over again.

Pain and heartbreak

Let me share the opening lines to illustrate my point.

"I did my best but I guess my best wasn't good enough.
Here we are back where we were before
Seems nothing ever changes, we're back to being strangers
Wondering if we ought to stay, or head on out the door."

I know that I don't have an exclusivity on pain and heartbreak. I just go through it a bit more publicly.

Tita **Virgie (Ramos**, the owner of Gift Gate and exclusive distributor of Swatch) teased me about inadvertently plugging Technomarine in Monday's column, considering that I'm now showcasing Swatch's Bijoux jewelry line. I told her that the pink watch was given to ease my pain, and that I'm going to put on a Swatch to celebrate when I've at last found my perfect match.

'Reigne' on tour

ASIA'S songbird Regine Velasquez goes onstage at Music Museum in "Reigne on Tour," Saturday, June 15, 9 p.m.

Regine will regale the audience with Top 40s and her signature hits rendered in her inimitable style.

She will also sing cuts from her latest album, "Reigne," under Viva Records.

Tickets are available at all Ticket World outlets and Music Museum.

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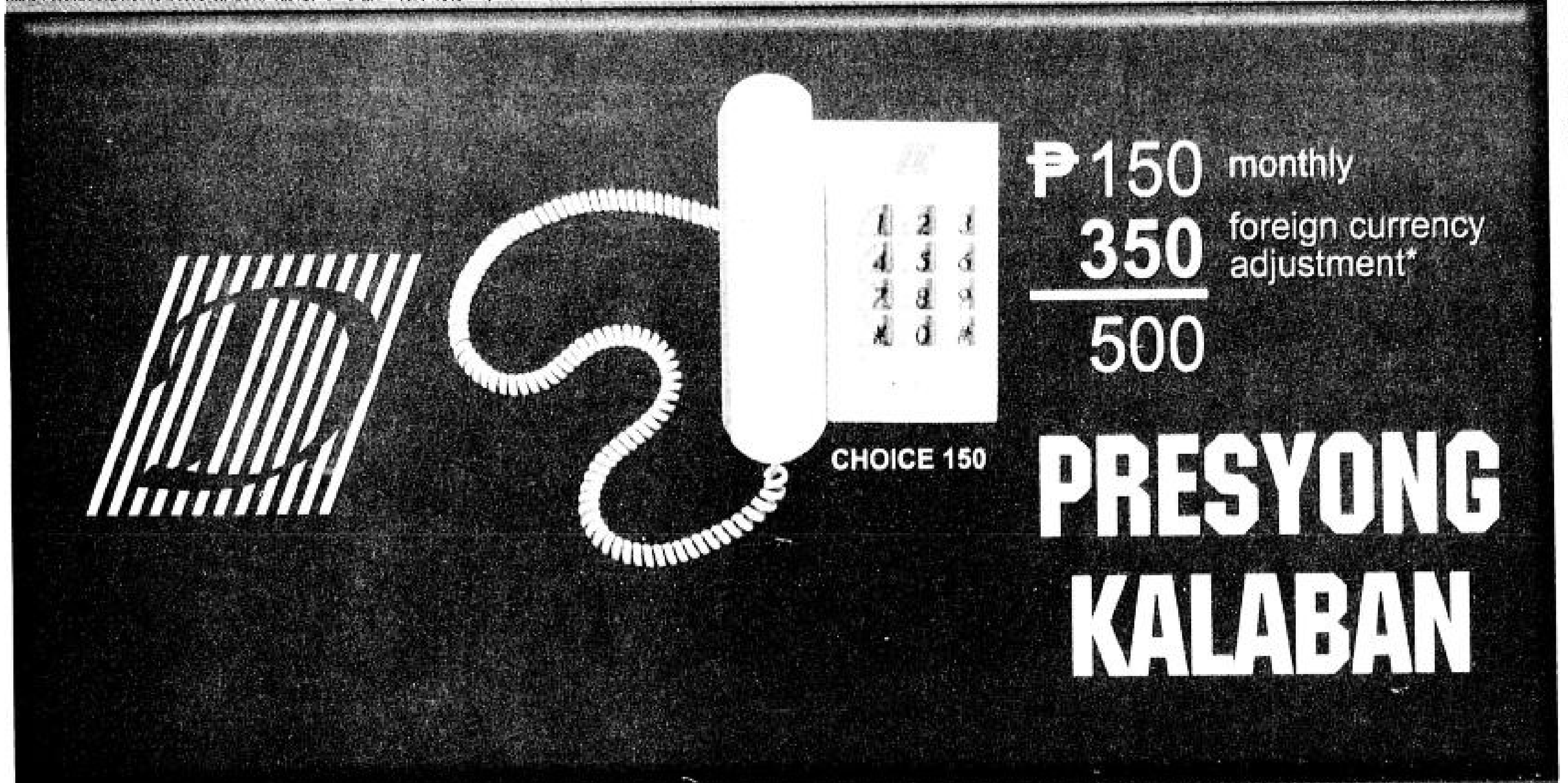
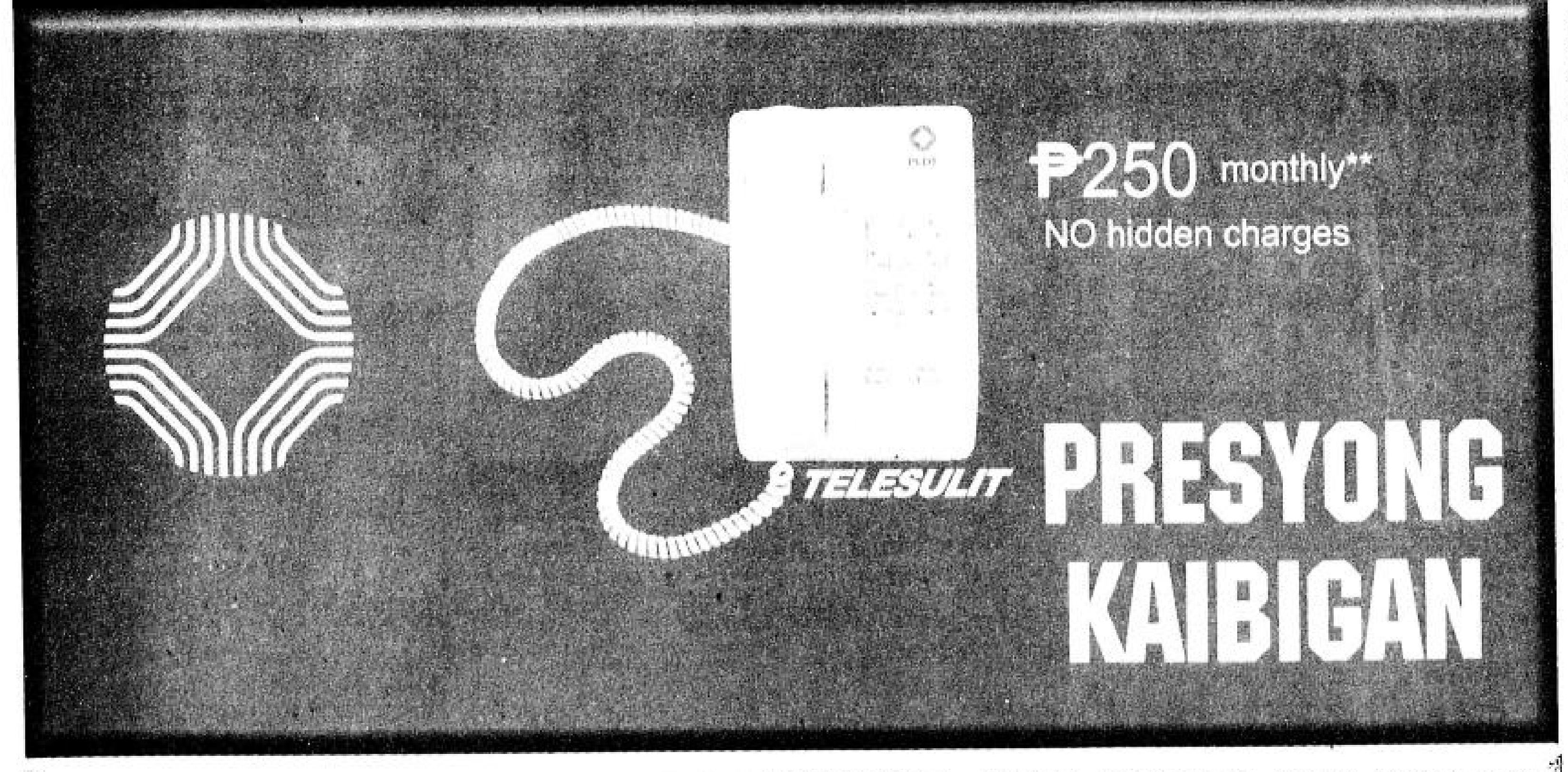
THE DIGI-MONSTER PHONE SWAP





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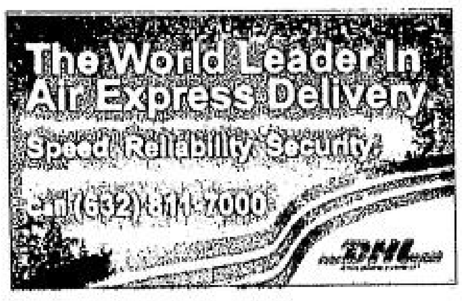
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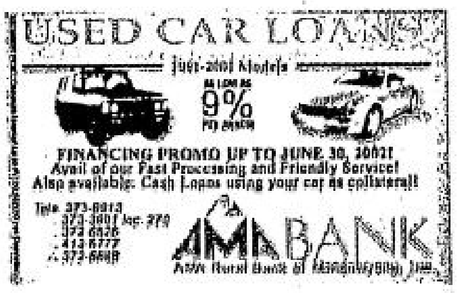
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Economic exec says gov't may miss budget gap target

BSP expects $100-M BOP surplus in 2002

Page B2

By Clarissa S. Batino

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday admitted that the government could miss its deficit target of P130 billion this year following a discouraging fiscal performance in the first four months.

He stressed, however, that the government was exerting all efforts to meet the target.

This early, financial markets are wary that the fiscal slippage would be much higher given the trend in the first four months of the year when the gap reached almost P83 billion or 64 percent of the target for the whole of 2002.

"We can probably miss it. It's not as if this is an exact science. But we are trying our best to rein in the deficit by reducing spending and implementing measures to prop up revenues," the economic planning chief said.

Canlas is the first government official to come out and admit that the fiscal target this year could be exceeded. Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho had been insisting that the target would be achieved while Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin said that the government might struggle but would still manage to contain the deficit within its target.

"I am not jumping with joy with these developments but I am confident that we can make adjustments with our spending and revenues," said Canlas who also heads the National Economic and Development Authority.

Canlas pointed out that the government could rely on non-tax revenues to shore up collection as well as dividends from other state agencies.

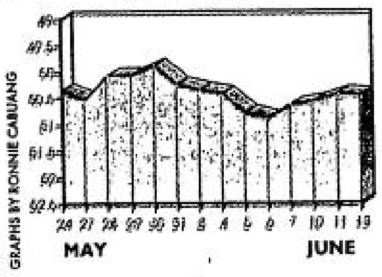
"We also plan to cut spending on items like travel and training and others that would not affect growth. We have started to line up the items we can cut in the DBCC," Canlas said.

He assured that the government would not cut expenditure items indiscriminately and make sure that the budget for important infrastructure projects and social programs would be intact.

ECONOMIC/ B4

INDICATORS

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

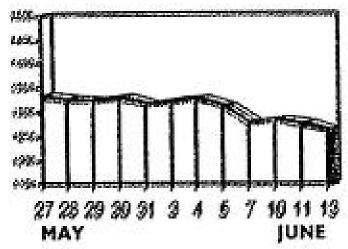
P 50.465 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 13, 2002

¥ 125.66 = $1
As of 5 p.m., June 13, 2002

GOLD: $318.40/318.90
per ounce Hong Kong,
June 13, 2002

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

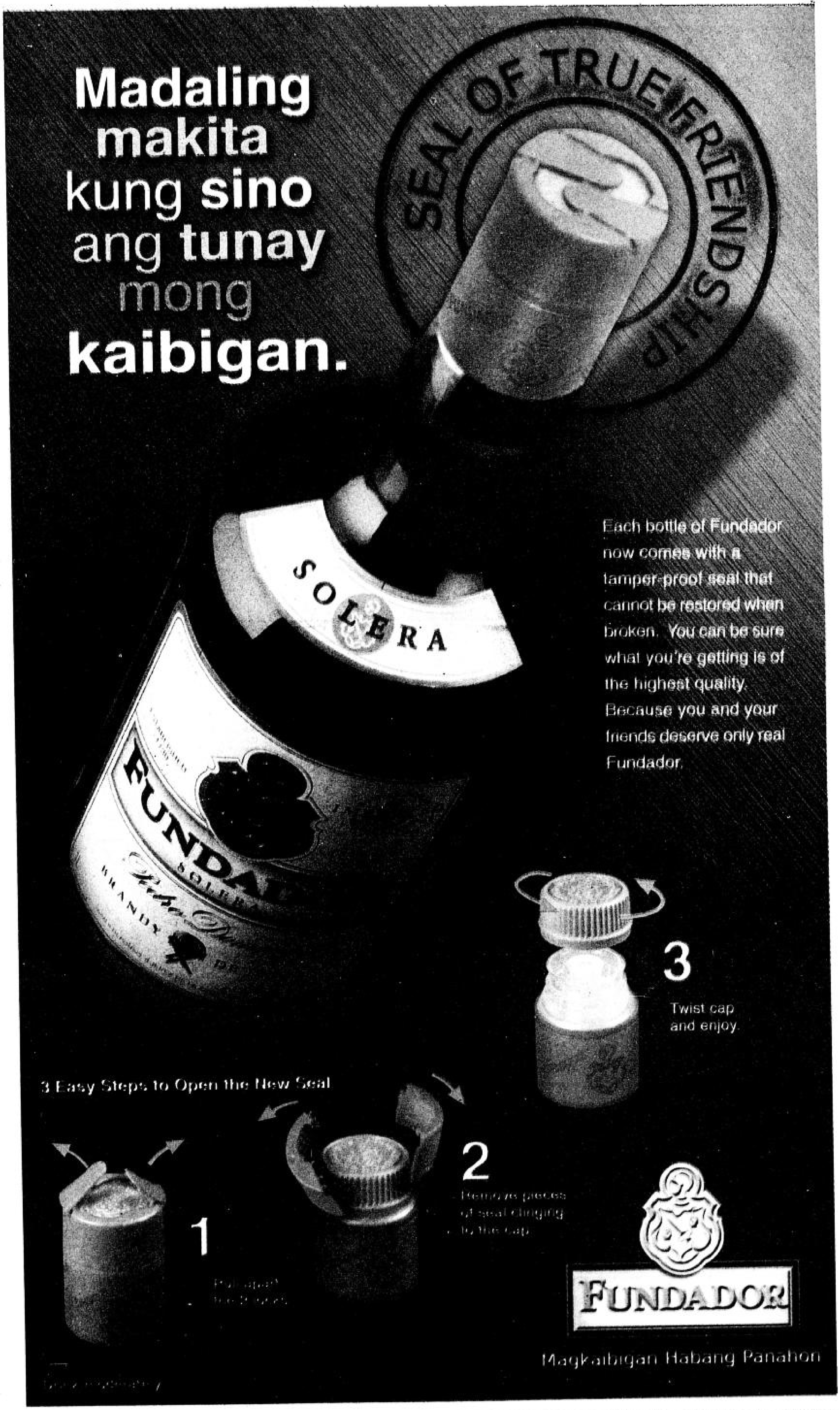
Shares down 1%

SHARES ended lower yesterday on losses suffered by blue chips, led by PLDT, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index ended down 12.14 points, or one percent, at 1262.22, adding to Tuesday's 0.8-percent loss. Financial markets were closed Wednesday for a national holiday.

PLDT fell P12.50, or 3 percent, to P410, as uncertainty continued to hound the planned sale of a controlling stake in the country's dominant carrier to local tycoon John Gokongwei.

"The standoff at PLDT is not good for the company's stock," said BNP Paribas Peregrine Securities research head Edgar Bancod. "Everything's put on hold, even the debt restructuring of the company." *AP*



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FUNDADOR
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BRANDY
3 Easy Steps to Open the New Seal
1
2
Remove pieces of seal clinging to the cap
3
Twist cap and enjoy.
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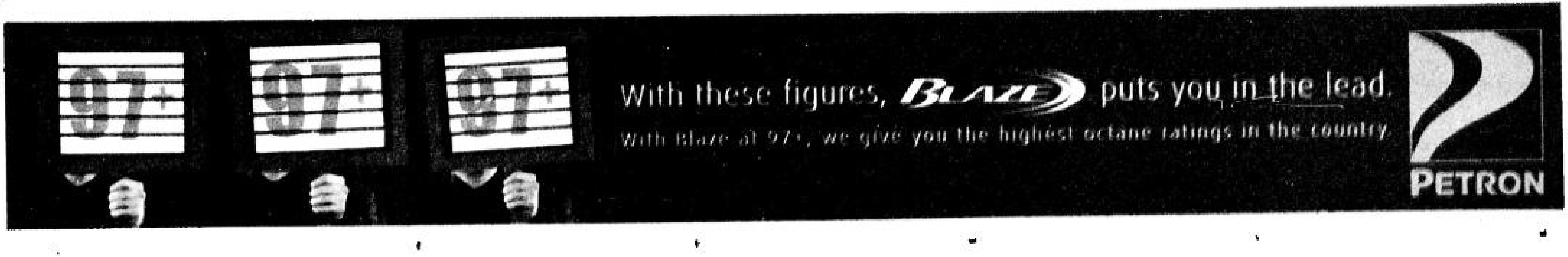

With these figures, BLAZE puts you in the lead.
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BSP expects $100-M BOP surplus in 2002

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has officially revised its balance-of-payments forecast to a modest surplus of $100 million from a deficit projection of $116 million.

The central bank cited its expectations of higher export earnings, improved investment flows from portfolio and straight equity, as well as aggressive foreign borrowings of the government as the basis of the reversal in its external payments projection.

A BSP official said the new target was very modest considering the trend in the country's BOP position in the first two months of the year.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura said last March that the BOP surplus could hit $200 million this year but he also wanted to be cautious and simply keep a modest payments target.

A finance official noted that the central bank could actually afford to target a BOP surplus of at least $300 million given the much-improved investment climate as well as projections of a substantial recovery in the export sector.

As of February, the BOP surplus stood at $654 million against a deficit of $1.087 billion the previous year. The surplus level was reduced from $806 million in January.

The BSP said last week that export receipts should improve by 4 percent this year from an earlier target of a flat growth and against a contraction of 15.7 percent in 2001.

The government's original economic assumptions were drawn late last year and have not factored in developments this year such as the earlier-than-expected recovery of the US economy. Despite the revision in export growth, the current account surplus target of the BSP was kept at $3.3 billion.

"It is a major turnaround. We are now expecting a surplus because of improved export performance and better investment climate resulting in higher portfolio and direct investment flows," a BSP official said.

An indicator of investor confidence and the country's ability to settle its obligations, the BOP is influenced by two items. One is the current account, which reflects movement in trade, and the other is the capital and financial account that mirrors the flow of investment and borrowings.

A BOP surplus means that there are more inflow of funds than outflow as a result of trade, investment and borrowings. A deficit in the external payments usually puts pressure on the local currency because it implies that foreign inflows are not enough to settle the outgoing obligations.

In 2001, the deficit in the external payments reached only $192 million against a worst-case scenario of $2.3 billion and a revised estimate of $1.1 billion.

"The current account target remains the same because we expect the BOP surplus to come largely from investments," said a BSP official. He explained that the growth in exports would be offset by a similar growth in imports.

The country's exports have huge import content, particularly in semiconductors and electronics where the local value-added is placed at only about 30 percent.

"The conditions merit a second look at the BOP target because conditions have changed compared to the time when we made the original assumption," Buenaventura pointed out.

Last year, the BSP governor noted that the worst-case deficit forecast of $2.3 billion was made after the Sept. 11 tragedy.

The number was revised by more than half or to $1.1 billion in November when it was evident that the Philippine economy was not as affected by the global slowdown that followed the attacks on the United States.

Oil companies, Manila gov't urged to resolve Pandacan row

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. yesterday urged the Big Three oil firms and the Manila city council to resolve their impasse on the Pandacan depots for fear of disrupting oil supply and pushing up prices.

Perez noted in a statement that the six-month business permit issued to Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex Philippines Inc. would expire at the end of the month.

"We are pressed for time," he said. "I urge all parties to look beyond their respective interests to assess the impact of the immediate relocation from the point of view of public interest."

The energy chief noted that the Pandacan oil terminals supply almost 90 percent of the fuel needs of Metro Manila and neighboring provinces Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan, Pampanga, Tarlac and Nueva Ecija.

He said a premature closure of the terminal was projected to cut the fuel supply by as much as 40 percent, which may trigger a shortage of oil supply.

"The costs of premature relocation might be passed on to the consumers through possible increases in oil prices," Perez said.

He added that moving the depots now would also increase traffic congestion in the region.

According to a DoE study, sourcing the region's oil supply from other terminals would mean the use of more tank trucks.

With the use of a pipeline system to transport products from refineries in Batangas to Pandacan, 800 trucks are needed to distribute the oil products.

If the Pandacan depots are closed down, daily truck traffic between Metro Manila and nearby provinces would rise by 50 percent to 1,200.

Perez has been conducting separate talks with and mediating between the oil firms and the Manila city government.

Perez called on the oil refiners to immediately put into action their earlier announcements about a phased scale-down of the terminals.

The substantial reduction of their area of operation by introducing buffer zones are good signs of their resolve to settle the matter, he said.

Last week, Petron president Motassim Al-Ma'ashouq told reporters that initial results of a major risk assessment found that the oil depots were safe and do not pose any threat to the safety of surrounding communities.

"We are still finalizing the major risk assessment, but we have completed it months before the original target of October," Al-Ma'ashouq said.

Petron, along with Pilipinas Shell and Caltex Philippines, agreed last year with the energy department to devise a master plan on how to resolve the Pandacan problem.

The Manila city government late last year passed an ordinance ordering the depots to relocate amid fears of terrorist attacks in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy in the United States.

"We accept the sentiment of (Manila) Mayor Lito Atienza and we are working very hard on making Pandacan a safer facility," the Petron chief said.

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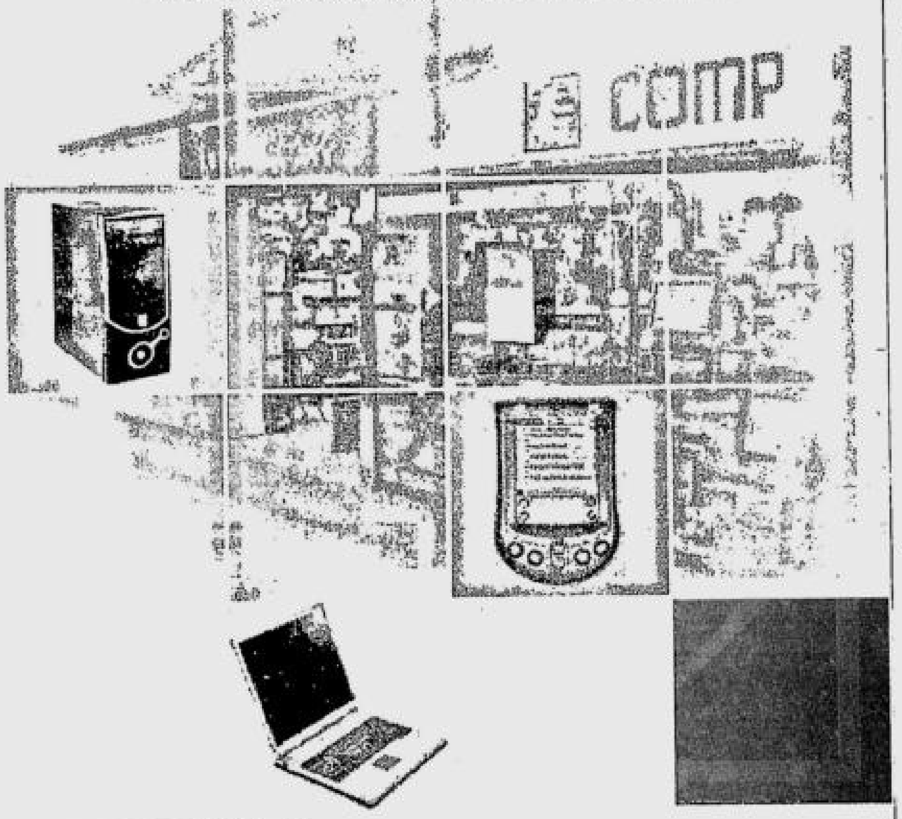

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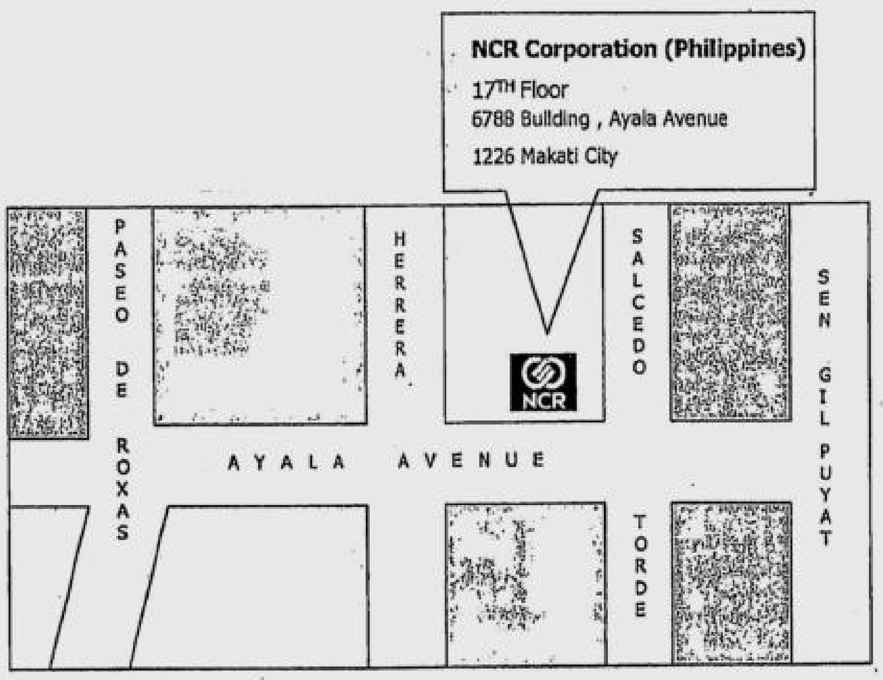

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Attack on Digi-Monster

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

TAKEOVER target PLDT has counterattacked right into the heart of John Gokongwei's telecom empire, undercutting the taipan's fledgling Digitel subscriber base with drastic price-slashing strategy.

In case you have not noticed, PLDT has been running "the Digi-Monster phone swap" newspaper ads targeting landline subscribers in the Northern, Central and Southern Luzon corridor, the strongest market base of the Gokongwei's landline business.

Although "Digitel" is nowhere mentioned—"Ipaglaban ang iyong karapatan! The Digi-Monster Phone Swap; Sugod na sa PLDT at ipagdiwang ang inyong kalayaan" read the ad's headlines—a strikingly similar "D" logo was nevertheless featured in the yellow-blue-red ad.

(The "D" in the ad has slanted vertical lines cutting through the italicized letter; the Digitel "D" has horizontal lines cutting through the upright letter.)

The ad, which has been running daily in the INQUIRER and at least one other English broadsheet since Tuesday's highly charged PLDT stockholders' meeting, contrasts the "Presyong Kalaban" of P500/month of "D" against PLDT's TeleSulit's P250/month "Presyong Kaibigan" plan.

"Palitan mo ang Digi telephone mo at mag-PLDT TeleSulit na," read the ad's clearest reference to Mr. John's telephone company.

The latest PLDT ad campaign is being executed by Ace/Saatchi & Saatchi.

Devout Japayukis

IT IS now the turn of Manuel V. Pangilinan and Antonio O. Cojuangco to fly to Tokyo and court their NTT partners.

According to the PLDT grapevine, MVP and TonyBoy will attempt to personally swing the still non-committal board of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone to veto the impending Gokongwei takeover of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

The planned MVP and TonyBoy trip comes in the wake of First Pacific's Anthoni Salim's trip to Tokyo late last month.

On the spiritual front, MVP was espied Tuesday night visiting the 24-hour prayer room of the San Antonio Church in Forbes, after the status quo PLDT board was reelected earlier in the afternoon.

MVP, with his usual retinue of bodyguards, knelt and prayed so genuinely hard like a devout pilgrim, according to an eyewitness.

Incidentally, the prayer-room's biggest supporter happens to be no less

COCKTALES/ B4

BOI keeps hands off Honda's tax perks

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments is urging griping assemblers to file their protest against the tax perks granted to the best-selling CR-V of Honda Cars Philippines Inc. (HCPI) with the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Land Transportation Office.

BOI managing head Gregorio Domingo claimed that the BOI merely approved HCPI's petition to shift the registration of its CR-V from a sport utility vehicle (SUV) to an Asian utility vehicle (AUV).

It was the BIR that granted the tax exemption to the CR-V after the agency and the LTO verified that the new model complied with the 10-seater rule, which exempts vehicles with a capacity of 10 passengers from the excise tax.

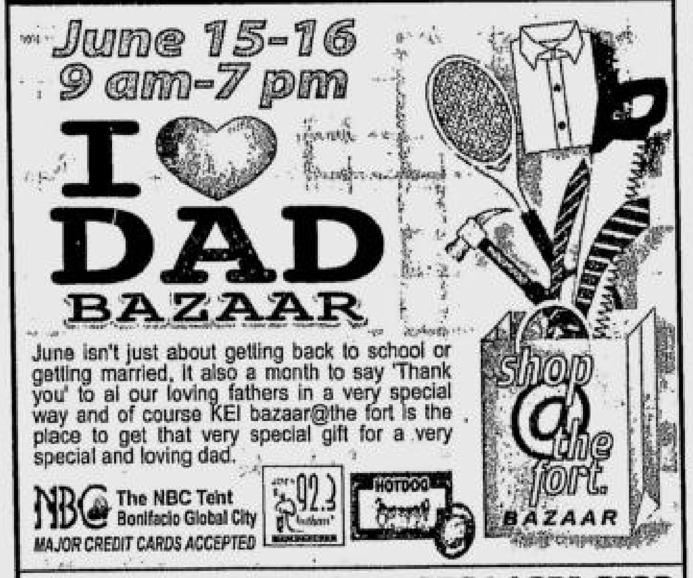
The tax exemption, along with changes in features and specifications, allowed HCPI to slash the price of its CR-V from P1.3 million last year to as low as P899,000 for its 2000 model.

The price cut has boosted sales of the CR-V which had dwindled sharply last year due to escalating prices and taxes. The new CR-V was the second best-selling AUV model in May with 713 units sold, next only to the 1,186 units of Toyota Tamaraw and ahead of the Mitsubishi Adventure (676 units) and Isuzu Hi-Lander (17 percent).

The BOI has been criticized for allowing the shift in CR-V's status from SUV to AUV because it clearly subverted the objective of the Motor Vehicle Development Program to promote the development of AUVs in the country.

The complaining assemblers, who have so far refused to come out in the open, said the BOI decision legalized an illicit practice that the government had long wanted to stop.

The assemblers claimed that the 10-seater rule has been abused by some automotive players that add jump seats in the back compartment of their SUVs in order to get tax exemptions.



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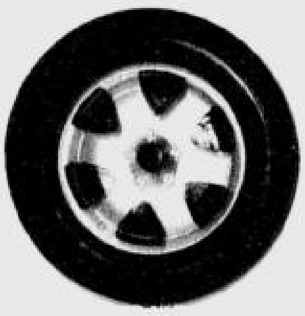

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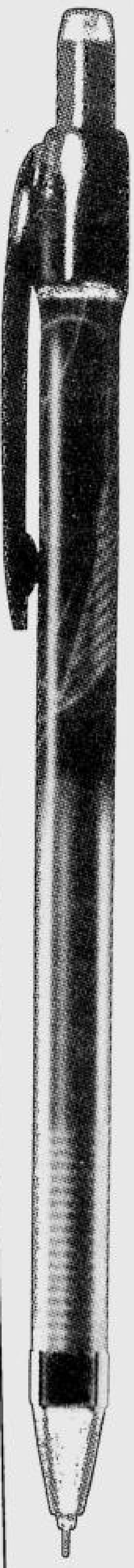

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Abandonment of work

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

WHAT should employers do in case their employees incur a long absence without official leave and without informing management as to their whereabouts and the duration of their absence? What action should management take to protect itself from unwarranted claims later that the workers were dismissed or not allowed to enter the premises of the company?

And to be fair, what should an employee do if, when reporting for duty, the company guard would refuse to allow him entry supposedly upon the instruction of management? How should a worker avoid the charge of abandonment? What action should he take to lay the premises of a suit for illegal dismissal? What are the workers' defense mechanisms against scheming employers?

The law

What does the law say about abandonment and what is the latest Supreme Court ruling on this issue? What is the trend of labor jurisprudence and what are the intricacies of this legal question when applied to a particular set of cases? What should personnel managers need to learn to guide management decisions on cases of abandonment?

On May 11, 2000, Senior Associate Justice Josue N. Bellosillo spoke for the Supreme Court in the case of Allan Villar, et al. vs. NLRC and Hi-Tech Mfg. Corp. (GR 130935, Second Division) and stressed that it was indeed very difficult, if not virtually impossible, for employers to substantiate a charge of abandonment.

Intent to abandon

The Supreme Court succinctly noted: "Abandonment is a matter of intention and can not lightly be presumed from certain equivocal acts. To constitute abandonment, there must be a clear proof of deliberate and unjustified intent to sever the employer-employee relationship (Shin Industrial vs. NLRC, 164 SCRA 8, etc.). The mere absence of the employee is not sufficient. The burden of proof to show a deliberate and unjustified refusal of an employee to resume his employment without the intention of returning rests on the employer. (Labor vs. NLRC, 248 SCRA 183, Sept. 14, 1995).

The Supreme Court rejected the company's attempt to introduce as evidence the affidavits of some of the complainants because the court saw a pattern of those statements being "wangled" upon the workers by the company. Thus: "The statements of the employees in these documents, readily acknowledging their guilt and absolutely exonerating their employer from any liability, were rigidly and uniformly stated, and appeared too good to be true."

Extracted waivers

Moreover, the Supreme Court warned: "We are not unaware of the schemes employed by management to extract favorable statements from their employees and entice them to desist from pursuing their claims in exchange for some financial considerations or promise of immediate employment or at some future time."

The court declared: "We conclude that petitioners did not abandon their jobs but were illegally dismissed therefrom by private respondent (the company). As a consequence, they are entitled to reinstatement with full backwages, undiminished by earnings elsewhere, to be computed from their illegal dismissal to their actual reinstatement."

Employers' action

And so, given this kind of ruling, what should employers do to protect their interests? We counsel that in the event an employee goes on Awol, for an unreasonable period, the personnel department should initiate contact by phone. If unavailing, then a formal letter should be sent by registered mail to the employee in his last known address with a specific instruction to report for work on a specified day and time plus a warning that failure to comply would be deemed an overt act of abandonment. Upon the return of the mail card, and the employee still fails to report to work, a last letter with a stern warning should be dispatched.

If, despite all the above, the employee still refuses to go back to work, the due-process requirements of notice and hearing under Article 277(b) of the Labor Code should be implemented, with due regard to DOLE Guidelines No. 9, issued in 1977. After due process, the employee should be notified in writing of his dismissal for cause on the ground of abandonment. And his name should be included in the company's monthly report to DOLE on separated employees.

Employees' options

On the side of labor, if an employee is prevented entry into his work place, he should write officially to the company confirming such prevention. And he should continue reporting until an answer is given. If within a week, no positive action is taken, he can already file a case of illegal dismissal.

In this jurisdiction, the law is very strict against employers and very lenient in favor of workers on matters that pertain to the workers' security of tenure. As much as possible, workers are protected from indiscriminate and arbitrary dismissal. But employers too should be understood if there was a clear intent on the part of the employees to cut off their employment with the company. It is necessary that the proof is submitted by management, the absent of which will mean an adverse decision.

Legal philosophy

The philosophy behind this legal and jurisprudential aversion against charges of abandonment is the common belief that employees who work for so many years will not just walk out of his job given the difficulties in finding employment. Moreover, it is perceived as contrary to the norms of human behavior to abandon a job and all the income and benefits derived therefrom.

I have handled a lot of cases in Petron, San Miguel and Pepsi, where some line managers failed to observe due process. This failure is HR's failure too. It is high time that HR managers learn the fundamentals of substance and procedures of employee dismissals. Their incompetence and negligence may cause the company to pay substantial sums of money to the employees. Let them consult the experts to avoid the serious consequences of another error. It is as simple as that.

Ongpin vows to continue fight for Itogon exemption

By Elena R. Torrijos

CALLING broker Robert Coyiuto's victory claims premature, former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin said he would continue to vigorously oppose Coyiuto's moves to block the exemption from listing rules of the private placement between Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc. and Ongpin's Philweb.com.

In response to Coyiuto's petition for the nullification of the exemption, the 8th division of the Court of Appeals issued early this week a resolution directing ISMI, the Philippine Stock Exchange and the PSE board to desist from enforcing the letter-order of the Securities and Exchange Commission allowing the exemption.

In a statement, Ongpin said that the CA resolution merely granted opposing parties 15 days to file their respective comments and did not at all address the merits of the case.

"It is deplorable that Mr. Coyiuto, under the guise of protecting the minority shareholders of ISM has continued to defy not only the SEC en banc but also the decision of the entire board of the Philippine Stock Exchange to grant the ISM exception," Ongpin said.

"It is obvious to both the SEC and the PSE but obviously not to Mr. Coyiuto that by not granting the exemption, instead of 'protecting the minority,' Mr. Coyiuto would in fact be hurting all ISM shareholders because it would have to revert into a moribund mining company," Ongpin added.

In its resolution, signed by Associate Justices Ruben Reyes, Renatao Dacudao and Amelita Tolentino, the Court of Appeals gave respondents 10 days from receipt of the resolution to comment on the TRO while Coyiuto was given five days after the respondents' submission to file his reply.

The court likewise asked respondents to show cause within the same 10-day period why the application for preliminary injunction should not be granted.

The PSE listing committee headed by Coyiuto and the PSE board, when it was still chaired by broker Felipe Yap last year, disallowed the listing of the additional shares of ISMI, which sold a 40-percent stake to Ongpin's technology holding firm Philweb.com.

The board and the listing committee cited as basis of their position the additional listing rule providing that all shareholders of a listed firm be given the right to subscribe to its shares if the discount price offered to investors was higher than 10 percent of the average market price.

The rule was intended to protect the rights of minority shareholders from unfair dilution.

Yuchengco, however, favored the approval of the listing of the additional ISMI shares. The SEC, for its part, issued a directive overruling the previous PSE board's decision.

Deadline for good governance rule compliance moved

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has given listed companies two more months until Sept. 1 this year to come up with their manuals on good corporate governance.

In a statement, the SEC warned that the deadline would not be extended further. The corporate watchdog agreed to extend the deadline, originally set for July 1, after it received many requests for extensions.

The Code of Corporate Governance, approved by the SEC in April, requires public companies or units of foreign public companies and those with secondary licenses from the SEC (such as pre-need companies, investment houses) to come up with their respective manuals of operations based on the code.

The code is aimed at preventing corporate failures arising from conflicts of interests or from simple neglect by the board of directors to properly oversee the company's management.

Under the code, a company's board of directors is given special responsibility to adhere to the principles of fairness, accountability and transparency in directing the affairs of the corporation. *Elena R. Torrijos*

Cocktales

From page B3

than TonyBoy's mother, Imelda Cojuangco, who sees to it that the air-conditioned meditation room gets its regular supply of fresh flowers, among other parish-directed charities.

Though both Antonio, it is not clear who was named after whom between the church and the PLDT scion.

With a little help from friends

RAMON "RJ" Jacinto suffered a minor heart attack last Sunday and had to undergoangioplasty at the Makati Medical Center.

The good news is, the 57-year-old rocker is all right, and the Friday night jam sessions at the Edsa Shangri-La hotel will continue.

Friends of RJ have decided to perform tonight in the meantime that their idol has been told to rest. Ma-an Hontiveros and the all-girl Lollipops band, the all-expatriate Snafu Beatle look-alike band, RJ's good-looking daughters, and Nora Jacinto and her Scholastican friends, plus the Assumptionista and Atenista groupies, with a few wayward La Sallites, have all vowed to keep the rock rolling and the longest junior-senior prom going.

RJ is scheduled to be discharged from the Makati Med today, and he has vowed to appear tonight against doctor's orders, at least to thank the Friday jammers that have so far been packing the hotel lobby to the brim.

Peace at Polo

THE LABOR unrest at the Manila Polo Club has been solved.

The retrenched F&B workers have decided to accept their retrenchment pay and lift the picket without prejudice to the existing labor complaint against the club, said a jubilant Polo Club director Rene Concepcion.

The rest of the Manila Polo employees, on the other hand, have agreed to a five-year CBA with the management.

Heard through the grapevine

TAIPAN Alfonso Yuchengco Jr. has decided to relinquish the ambassadorial posting to the United Nations in favor of ex-Transportation Undersecretary Josefina Lichauco.

With the UN position finally going to Lichauco, the Yale-educated lawyer will no longer have to go to Geneva, another coveted assignment that will now be rewarded to a career diplomat. *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

DISCLOSURES

RIZALINO Navarro was elected chair and CEO of **EEI Corp.** Samson Lazo is the new president and COO.

* * *

ELECTED officers of **Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.** during the company's annual stockholders' meeting on June 11 were Antonio Cojuangco, chair; Manuel Pangilinan, president and CEO; Ricardo Zarate and Antonio Samson, EVPs; and Maria Lourdes Rausa-Chan, SVP, secretary and general counsel.

* * *

MANUEL Pangilinan was elected chair, president and CEO of **Metro Pacific Corp.** on June 11. Elected treasurer and CFO was Jose Ma. Lim. Antonio Picazo and Gemma Santos were elected corporate secretary and assistant corporate secretary, respectively.

* * *

THE BOARD of **IVantage Corp.** elected the following officers: Ban Tiu, chair and CEO; Willy Ocier, vice chair; William Chua, president and COO; A. Bayani Tan, corporate secretary; and Ethel Maraon, assistant corporate secretary.

* * *

CITY and Land Developers Inc. reelected the following directors: lawyer Sabino Padilla Jr. (chair), Stephen Roxas, lawyer Andrew Liuson, Alice Gohoc, Maleo Armando Caparas, Grace Liuson and Helen Roxas.

* * *

THE BOARD of **JG Summit Holdings Inc.** has reset the company's annual stockholders' meeting from June 14 to Aug. 14, 4 p.m. at the Amorsolo Ballroom of Manila Galleria Suites, Ortigas Center, Pasig City.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Interphil Laboratories Inc.** elected the following officers: Ricardo Romulo, chair; Jose Juliano, vice chair, and Francisco Billano, president and general manager.

* * *

DMCI Holdings, Inc. said it was not in a position to disclose anything on the reported estafa charges filed with the Department of Justice against various companies and officials of the **Consunji Group, Abacus Capital and Investment Inc.** and **Keppel IVI Investments Inc.**

* * *

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings Inc. said that the individual officers named in the reported estafa charges filed with the Department of Justice against the **Consunji Group** and other corporations have yet to receive any subpoena or any official notice from the DOJ. It cannot sufficiently evaluate the allegations contained in the report. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, June 13, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	6,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	20	20	20	20	1,870,300
Bank of the Phil. Islands	55	55	53	53	212,200
China Banking Corp.	635	635	635	635	1,110
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	37.5	37.5	36	36	83,900
First E-Bank Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	10,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37.5	36.5	37	145,200
Philippine National Bank	37.5	38	37	37.5	95,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	23	23	23	23	37,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	3,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1130	1130	1125	1130	13,890
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26	26	26	26	13,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.68	0.68	4,430,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	645	650	645	650	5,060
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.037	0.037	0.037	0.037	100,000
Piltel	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	210,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.17	0.19	0.17	0.19	140,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	420	422.5	407.5	410	96,270
Ivantage Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	5,340,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	24,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	24	24.5	24	24	41,800
Manila Electric Co. B	36	37	35	36	2,661,600
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.72	2,275,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.58	1.58	111,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	200,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals, Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	315,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.42	2.4	2.4	429,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.8	1.7	1.8	118,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	120,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.16	134,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.25	287,700
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	33.5	34	33.5	34	191,000
RFM Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	620,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	6,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	105,300
San Miguel Corp. B	57	57.5	56.5	56.5	655,100
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	658,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.32	703,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	20,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	20,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	30,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	33,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.54	0.54	0.51	0.51	1,610,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	23.5	24	23.5	23.5	122,400
Global Equities Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	770,000
Ionics Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.8	6.8	284,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	13,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.014	0.017	0.014	0.017	13,000,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.015	0.017	0.014	0.017	5,400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.78	0.78	0.78	0.78	10,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	10,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.33	2,650,000
Music Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Philcomsat Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	100,000
Philtread Holdings Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.4	3.4	20,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.095	0.09	0.09	5,400,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	150,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.0625	0.06	0.06	4,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	14,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.37	150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.48	0.47	0.47	160,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	550,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	26.5	26.5	26	26	6,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	775	775	775	775	10
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6	5.8	5.8	13,122,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.04	2.02	2.04	250,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.32	0.3	0.3	150,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	290,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	710,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.55	3,978,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	500,000
SM Development Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	5,870,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	500,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	2,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines Inc.	0.038	0.039	0.038	0.039	13,000,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	400,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.015	0.015	0.014	0.015	8,600,000
Interport Res.	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	6,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	17,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	28,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	4,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	11,500,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.041	0.041	0.041	0.041	200,000

CURRENCIES

June 13, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.059659	1.000000	50.4380
Japan	Yen	0.008432	0.007957	0.4013
United Kingdom	Pound	1.559182	1.471400	74.2145
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.135872	0.128222	6.4673
Switzerland	Franc	0.677315	0.639182	32.2391
Canada	Dollar	0.690332	0.651466	32.8586
Singapore	Dollar	0.593480	0.560067	28.2487
Australia	Dollar	0.605520	0.571429	28.8217
Bahrain	Dinar	2.810916	2.652661	133.7949
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.282569	0.266660	13.4498
Brunei	Dollar	0.590273	0.557041	28.0960
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000122	0.000115	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.025051	0.023641	1.1924
UAE	Dirham	0.288523	0.272279	13.7332
Korea	Won	0.000870	0.000821	0.0414
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.943700	47.5983
Argentina	Peso	0.309842	0.292398	14.7480
Brazil	Real	0.385611	0.363901	18.3544
Denmark	Kroner	0.134526	0.126952	6.4032
India	Rupee	0.021670	0.020450	1.0315
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.278895	0.263193	13.2749
Mexico	New Peso	0.109554	0.103386	5.2146
New Zealand	Dollar	0.522000	0.492611	24.8463
Norway	Kroner	0.134754	0.127167	6.4140
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017661	0.016667	0.8407
South Africa	Rand	0.104709	0.098814	4.9840
Sweden	Kroner	0.109231	0.103081	5.1992
Syria	Pound	0.020676	0.019512	0.9841
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.031240	0.029481	1.4870
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000922	0.000870	0.0439

Economic exec . . .

From page B1

The inter-agency Development Budget Coordinating Committee is scheduled to review the government's fiscal target after the first half.

The bureaus of internal revenue and of customs have asked the economic team to cut its target of P447.6 billion and P115 billion to reflect changes in the macroeconomic assumptions.

The BIR said that in the first four months of the year, the low-interest rates regime affected its collection and gave it about P5 billion less in earnings from taxes on interest income.

On the other hand, lower interest rates this year gave the government some P13 billion in saving on debt payments in the first five months.

The government pointed out that the higher-than-expected deficit from January to April was largely caused by its decision to front-load payables. Camacho said that in the coming months, there would be less items to pay and expenditures would in turn be lower.

Boncodin admitted that the fiscal turnout from January to April was "not a very good news."

"It is not a question of whether we are meeting the targets or not because the bottom line is, we have to. We cannot spend beyond our means," she said in an earlier interview.

Cement makers, traders clash over real cost of imports

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

CONGRESS wants to know the real landed cost of cement imports in the country after cement traders and manufacturers presented widely divergent figures in the ongoing probe at the House of Representatives.

Southern Cross Cement Corp., a major Japanese cement manufacturer, presented officials records during a hearing in Congress that showed that a bag of cement shipped from Japan to Manila last year amounted to P98, excluding operating, administrative expenses and investment cost.

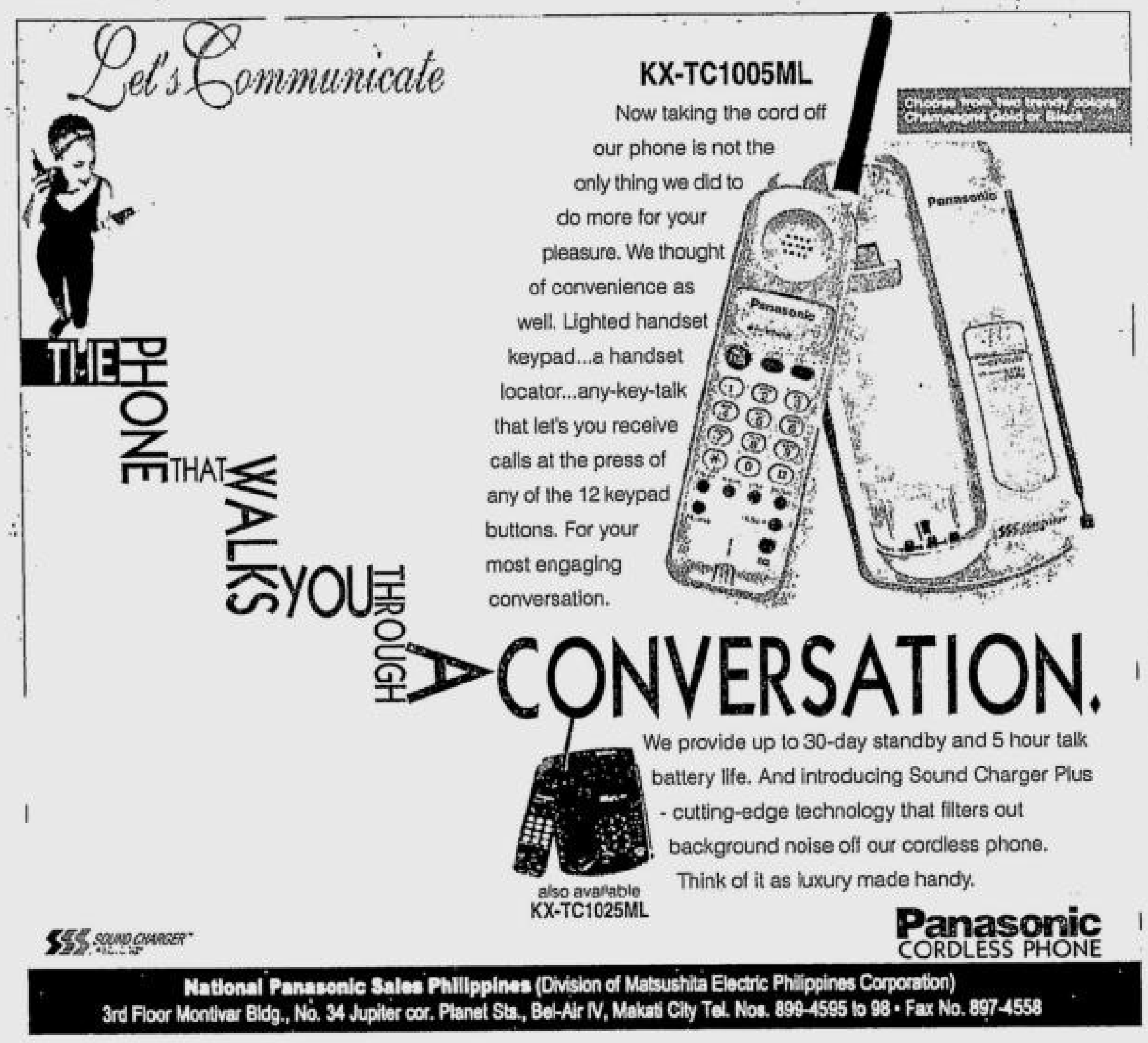
But the Philippine Cement Manufacturers Corp. claimed that the landed cost of cement was between P52 and P58 per 40-kilogram bag. Philcemcor said that the low landed costs of cement imports did not benefit consumers because traders sold the imported cement at the same price as that of local cement or even higher.

The landed cost of cement imports is crucial in the ongoing congressional probe because it could be used in determining whether foreign countries are dumping their cement products in the Philippines. Dumping occurs when imports are sold at prices substantially lower than the domestic prices in their countries of origin.

Also, the landed cost of imports is used as the basis in determining the tariff to be imposed on imports. Usually, the government pegs the anti-dumping tariff at levels that will offset the price advantage of cement imports on local products.

Southern Cross said Philcemcor's figures were based on a "few incidents of undervaluation" and they used them as the average import cost to convince the Department of Trade and Industry and other agencies that even an additional 100 percent duty would not push cement prices beyond P120 per bag.

Aside from landed costs, cement manufacturers and traders were at odds on whether the Philippines was more restrictive or more open to cement imports than other Asian countries.



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325IA Limousine	2,600,000.00	910,000.00	46,944.44
325IA Exec	2,700,000.00	945,000.00	48,750.00
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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1950 Series of 2002

Study proves drug's efficiency for men, women

DID YOU know that talking to someone about one's personal sexual problems is indeed difficult?

In a recent survey presented before an annual gathering of American heart specialists, it was revealed that doctors had difficulty determining the underlying causes of their patients' sexual health, with factors centering on the patients' feeling somewhat ashamed to admit such conditions and the fear of their image of masculinity being damaged.

The survey also indicated that only 32 percent of men seek treatment for erectile dysfunction. However, while this may be true among the younger age brackets, medical experts noted that other couples benefit from gratifying sexual relationships, even in old age, so long as they seek early help from medical professionals regarding their sexual condition.

Another study conducted in the Philippines revealed that one out of 10 Filipino males suffers some form of impotence. However, the great news is that a new medical product from Norway has been launched. Potensan, an all-natural herbal concoction, had been effectively proven in Europe to eliminate impotence in both males and females.

A four-year study in Europe reported that 175 patients were treated with Potensan. Of this number, 153 were men, 22 were women. The study also pinpointed prevalent reasons impotence occurs among both sexes. These are: 1) the side effects of other medicines (hormones, anti-depressants, prostatic medicines, alcohol abuse); 2) hormonal disturbances, or stress-related problems; 3) pre-sexual nervousness, and 4) smoking.

It was also found out that female patients had sexual problems after using hormonal medications, and after frequent attempts to lose weight. These patients were found to lack the sexual energy and dryness of the mucus membranes.

Potensan reportedly enhanced physiological effects, and thus increased men and women's sexual abilities, and added sexual power. It was also indicated in the report that men using Potensan experienced stronger and faster erection, while the women felt higher levels of energy, and the moistening of their mucus membranes.

Potensan has been proven effective, and shows no negative side effects and is safe for the heart. Potensan is distributed in the Philippines by International Nutrition Products Inc. (Inpi) and is available in Mercury Drug stores and other leading drugstores nationwide. For more information, call 843-1586, or e-mail inpi@skynet.net or inpi@pacificnet.net.ph.

FIRST AYALA COMMUNITY IN ANTIPOLO

Laguna Properties Holdings Inc. (LPHI), an Ayala Land Inc. subsidiary, recently launched two residential subdivisions in Barangay Dalig, Antipolo City—the St. Alexandra Estates and St. Gabriel Heights. St. Alexandra Estates offers three house types with varying unit sizes: 90-110 sqm (Dominica), 110-135 sqm (Antigua), and 135-165 sqm (Grenada), making use of the Phenix building system. It offers 147 saleable lots with lot cuts ranging from 204 to 350 sqm. St. Gabriel Heights, on the other hand, has three basic house types made of the Tex building system with varying unit sizes to choose from: 40 sqm (Tex 40), 49 sqm (Tex 49), and 81 sqm (Tex 81). It offers 167 saleable lots with lot sizes ranging between 149 to 276 sqm. Leading the ribbon cutting were (second from right) Mercedita S. Nolledo, Ayala Land's executive vice president and Manuel J. Colayco Jr., LPHI president. Also present were (from left) Ricardo P. Isla, Rosabella S. Abella, Sophia Ojeda, interior designer for St. Gabriel Heights), Helen Grace T. Lazo and Evelyn C. Solis of LPHI.

ZURICH TAKES ROSARIO TO SWITZERLAND

Zurich Philippines, one of the leading life and non-life insurance companies, recently awarded one of its corporate customers an all-expense paid trip for two to Zurich, Switzerland via Swiss International Air Lines. The trip ticket was the major raffle prize drawn during Zurich's Appreciation Night at the Premiere THX Cinema in Makati that brought together its corporate customers, individual policyholders, suppliers, business partners and employees. A number of dinner certificates for two in 5-star hotels and fine dining restaurants were also given away during the event. Dignitaries from the Embassy of Switzerland headed by its Charge d'Affairs Peter Casaulta also graced the affair. Shown is Swiss International Air Lines country manager Paul Schenk (left) awarding raffle winner Amorsolo Rosario, VP-finance of Nestle Philippines, the trip for two to Zurich.

Witness Padre Pio's canonization

IN THE ANNALS of the Catholic Church, many saints have had a widespread devotional following. Their inspiring lives have become a beacon of light to many. They are vessels of intercession and grace for miracles or favors.

On June 26 at the Vatican, beloved Padre Pio will be proclaimed as one.

But even long before his death on Sept. 23, 1968, he was already revered as a saint.

He gained a wide following, partly for the miracle of the stigmata that he carried until his death. The five wounds that he received from the crucified Jesus is similar to that of St. Francis of Assisi. Thousands were touched by the wise counsel he gave at the confessional. He is one of the most loved confessors of all time, gifted by God to be able to know the innermost secrets of one taking confession. He could also predict the future and bi-locate—be in two places at the same time—like St. Anthony of Padua. Innumerable miracles were attributed to him in his lifetime, and after his death.

To mark the event of his canonization, Adam's Express Travel (telephone number 521-1651/38) invites the public to witness the historic event. Other than Rome, the group will visit his birthplace, Pietrealcina, a church where the Virgin Mary had an apparition, San Giovanni Rotondo where he stayed long, and the tourist sites of Capri, Sorrento and Naples. Accommodation is limited so those joining are urged to reserve early.

Those who witnessed his Masses, long as they were, experienced a unique expression of love for Jesus.

BITS Clips

Cooking demos at SM

JOIN the San Miguel-Purefoods Culinary Center as it celebrates Father's Day with a series of cooking demonstrations at the different SM Malls. Learn easy and delicious recipes that you could prepare for Dad on the following dates and venues: on June 14 at the Activity Center of the SM City Bacoor, on June 15 at the Storyland in SM Southmall and on June 22 at the Storyland in SM Fairview. All cooking demonstrations start at 2 p.m. Present any two wrappers of Monterey, Magnolia Chicken, Purefoods-Hormel or any Magnolia Butter, Margarine or Cheese in exchange for an entrance and raffle ticket. For more information, call 671-9876 to 91 local 402/405.

Nu Skin golf tourney

INDEPENDENT distributors of Nu Skin Philippines will host a golf tournament The 3rd Force "Fore" Good Golf Classic at the Riviera Golf and Country Club in Silang, Cavite on June 14. Registration starts at 6 a.m., with tee-off at 7 a.m. This project is spearheaded by Raymond and Ting Yupangco. Now on its third year, the project is for the benefit of the Mabuhay Deseret Foundation, a non-profit organization that gives medical assistance to indigent members of the society, particularly children born with hare lip or cleft palates, who are cross-eyed or who have club feet. The foundation is the local beneficiary of Nu Skin's global community-oriented "Force for Good" campaign which aims to improve the quality of life of communities where the company exists. Tickets are available at the Nu Skin Ortigas Walk-In Center. For inquiries, call Ting Yupangco at 536-5215 or Nu Skin at 689-0300.

Auldey races at Ever

AFTER its product launch in Manila, Cebu and other cities in the Philippines, Auldey invites racing enthusiasts to the Auldey Race-Tin Racing Competition 2002 on June 16 at the Ever Commonwealth Atrium from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. The competition is divided into two categories: the Children's category for kids aged 7 to 15 and the Teens'/Adults' category for participants aged 16 and above. There will be three different stages for each category, the elimination, semifinals and final round. The champion for both categories will receive P4000 in cash plus trophy and an Auldey Gift Pack. The second placer receives P2000 in cash, a silver medal and an Auldey Gift Pack, while the third placer receives P1000 in cash, a bronze medal and an Auldey Gift Pack. The Auldey Race-Tin Racing Competition 2002 is being brought to you by Ever Gotesco Department Store, in cooperation with Ever Gotesco Malls, Samsung Batteries, Savory Restaurant--Commonwealth, Coutry Waffles, Bank of the Philippine Islands, The First Nationwide Assurance Corp., and Homeworks. For more information, call Khristine Lazaro at 687-7451 to 54.

SEC EMPOWERED ON ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

Dr. Paul Pacter (center), Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu-Hong Kong (DTT-HK), director of the technical department, together with CL Manabat & Co. (CLMC), the member firm of DTT, conducted an International Accounting Standards seminar for the SEC commissioners and officers recently. Shown (top row, from left) are Cindy Ortiz, CLMC technical research manager and director Justina Callangan, SEC corporation finance department. Shown at bottom row, from left, are director Benito Cataran, SEC company registration and monitoring department, commissioners Josella Poblador and Jesus Enrique Martinez (SEC) and director Emilio Aquino, SEC non-traditional securities and instruments department.

CUP CHAIR HOSTS MISS CONSUMER 2002

The Consumers Union of the Philippines held its 13th Anca awards at the Manila Hotel May 31. It also presented the first Miss Consumers 2002 Beauty Pageant in a joint venture with Associated Tri-Media Alliance, Angelo 'Mike' Ocampo, founding president and project producer, and ALG Productions, Amy L. Guzman, president and executive producer. CUP chair Domingo C. Pabalate hosted a lunch with the candidates at Italianni's Restaurant at Glorietta Mall. Shown standing, from left, are Anna Marie A. Diez, Luisa V. Paterno, Pabalate, Treena A. Bersola, and Ezra Amechazurra. Kneeling, from left, are Joy D. Oliviano, Renelyn A. Banez and Faye D. Gonzalvo.

Product FILES

The power of expandability and network connectivity

TODAY the business front lines require both speed and efficiency. And that means mobile devices must now offer an office-like environment as well as seamless access to servers. Casio Computer Co. Ltd. is proud to launch the Cassiopeia E-200—designed to meet the growing need for a high-performing mobile device geared to enterprise applications.

Featuring enhanced expandability, Cassiopeia E-200, which operates using Microsoft's Pocket PC 2002 software, allows users to connect to a variety of wireless network products and accessories to create a complete mobile office solution.

It supports a number of expansion cards, including PC, CF and SD cards, allowing users to store more information while on the move (PC Card optional). Another key feature is the USB Connectivity available through an attached cradle and optional PC card unit/host converter. This supports devices such as keyboards and a mouse.

Cassiopeia E-200 is fitted with two slots for CF (Type II) or SD cards, and an optional PC card unit plus USB host functions for superior expandability. With its seamless access to servers, it enables enterprise solutions such as sending and receiving e-mails, synchronizing with databases, and using applets, corporate groupware like Microsoft Exchange and other application software, further increasing efficiency. It is fully compatible with Windows and its USB host functions connects peripherals like keyboards, printers and projectors.

Specs include a StrongARM 1110 206 MHz processor, 64 MB memory, reflective 3.5 inch TFT color LCD (65,536 colors). The unit comes bundled with USB cradle with USB host and softcase, measures 130x82x17.5 mm (smaller than previous Cassiopeia models), and weighs 190 grams for maximum portability.

The Cassiopeia E-200 is exclusively distributed by Business Plus Marketing and is available at all Globatronics and Western Marketing outlets, as well as in all major computer shops. For product inquiries, call 637-6422 local 503, or e-mail casioedu@mozcom.com.

RP hosts 2002 SEA Glaucoma meet

AQUINO

THE PHILIPPINE Glaucoma Society, led by Dr. Manuel B. Agulto, president, and Dr. Mario V. Aquino, honorary chair, invites all ophthalmologists to attend the Southeast Asian Glaucoma Interest Group (Seagig) Second Biennial Meeting scheduled from Sept. 28 to 30 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The theme of this year's meeting is "Glaucoma: Southeast Asian and Global Perspectives". World-renowned authorities in the field of glaucoma will conduct lectures, case discussions, symposia, and instructional courses on a wide range of topics. Participants to Seagig 2002 will have the opportunity to interact with international experts in glaucoma management led by Dr. Ivan Goldberg, Seagig president. The deadline for early registration and submission of abstracts is July 15. Interested parties may visit www.SEAGIG2002.org for more details.

MRC AT DDH

The MSD Resource Center (MRC) continues its service to the Davao community as pharmaceutical company Merck Sharp & Dohme Philippines (MSD) extends its relationship with the Davao Doctors' Hospital (DDH). An integral part of MSD's mission of improving health care nationwide, the MRC provides information and computer services to help busy physicians access the latest medical information and literature search in diagnosis and treatment of patient conditions. The DDH-MRC complements DDH's complete line of state-of-the-art diagnostic and therapeutic facilities. The first hospital in the Visayas/Mindanao region ISO 9001-certified, DDH continuously upgrades its infrastructures and systems to deliver the best in healthcare to its patients. Signing the agreement are MSD corporate affairs director Christine Liwanag (left) and DDH president and chief executive officer Dr. Herminio A. Villano Sr. Looking on are MSD staff (from left) Cat Dallarte, Rose Decena, Mhyll Jade Ouano, and Helen Ranola. For more information, call the MSD customer service call center at 878-6338 or 1-800-1-888-6737.

Corporate profit worries risk to market outlook

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund said on Wednesday concern over the quality of corporate profits in the aftermath of the Enron failure is the main risk to an otherwise stable outlook for global financial markets.

The fund, in a quarterly report highlighting cracks in financial markets, also said weakness in the Japanese banking system and in some European banks could also be a threat.

"The risk of an equity price correction due to disappointing corporate earnings remains a possibility, not only for the United States but also in other regions," the IMF said in its report on the first quarter of 2002.

US stocks have tumbled in recent weeks, with the broadbased Standard & Poor's 500 index not far off September 2001 lows, partly because of concerns about the strength of corporate America's accounting practices after a scandal that brought down energy giant Enron last year.

Stocks have also suffered from fears that the US economic rebound might not be as vigorous as originally expected.

The fund said the economic recovery appeared to be "generally" intact but that corporate profits will be important for sustaining an economic renaissance because they are key to business capital spending, a view echoed by US Federal Reserve officials and private economists.

The lead author of the report, capital markets department head Gerd Hausler, also said gains in worker productivity in the United States are expected to continue to outstrip those in Europe and Japan, and therefore any abrupt exchange rate correction between major currencies seems unlikely.

"Any exchange rate movement at this time would not be expected to be very violent," he told reporters at a briefing on the report.

The dollar has lost ground against the euro and the yen in the past few months, giving rise to fears the currency of the world's top economy could be headed for a serious correction. ***Reuters***

US, Japan, China record modest economic growths

THREE of the biggest economies in the world—United States, Japan and China—have shown modest recovery over the past few months, but monetary authorities feared that the growth may be short-lived.

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday said the US economy showed spotty growth in April and May, an assessment that likely paves the way for the central bank to leave short-term interest rates unchanged later this month.

"Reports from Federal Reserve Districts indicated that overall economic activity expanded at a moderate pace in late April and May," the Fed said in its "beige book" report, an anecdotal snapshot of the national economy issued about two weeks before the US central bank's monetary policy meetings.

"The tone was one of modest but uneven growth, with some major sectors showing signs of improvement while others softened or remained weak," the Fed said.

While the US economy grew at a startling 5.6-percent annual rate in the first three months of the year, recent economic reports show it likely slowed down in the second quarter.

With growth only "moderate," the report revealed little worry over the possibility of an outbreak of inflation soon. The Fed said labor markets in most areas were "slack," though several areas reported higher demand for temporary workers.

"Prices pressures were in check for most goods and services, but many districts noted rising steel prices and continued increases in energy and insurance costs," the Fed said.

Japan upgrade

The Bank of Japan, meanwhile, upgraded its economic assessment on Thursday for a fourth straight month, citing strong exports and industrial output, but it cautioned that the recovery could slow as demand from overseas shrinks.

It was the first time since April-July 2000 that the central bank raised its view on the economy for four consecutive months.

"Japan's economy shows signs of stabilizing with a distinct increase in exports and a pick-up in production, although domestic private demand remains weak," the BOJ said in its monthly report for June.

Fueled by strong exports of cars and electronic goods, Japan emerged from recession in the January-March quarter, clocking its best growth in two years and outpacing a first-quarter rebound in the mighty US economy.

Data earlier on Thursday showed the recovery was still resting heavily on exports, mostly to Asia's fast-recovering economies.

The BOJ kept its monetary policy unchanged on Wednesday, as widely expected by financial markets, despite growing signs of a tentative recovery in the world's second biggest economy.

China prices up

On the other hand, China's economy, Asia's second largest after Japan, grew a stronger-than-expected 7.6 percent in the first quarter, bouncing back from its slowest quarterly growth in two years in the last three months of 2001.

But prices have fallen amid intense competition among farmers as well as price wars triggered by industrial overcapacity and weak global markets that have caused exporters to try to sell their goods at home.

China said on Thursday that prices from vegetables to medicinal tonics slid again in May, but at a slightly slower pace which suggested an easing of the deflation that has nagged its otherwise booming economy.

China's consumer price index (CPI) covering goods and services such as grain and house rents, fell 1.1 percent in May from a year earlier, the State Statistical Bureau said in a statement.

That was below the 1.3-percent drop in April, which came on top of a dip of 0.6 percent in the first quarter and reignited fears that deflation, thought to have been banished in mid-2000 after a three-year visit, had returned. ***Reuters***

US lawmakers urge O'Neill to rein in overvalued dollar

WASHINGTON—The overvalued US dollar is putting the squeeze on American manufacturers and farmers, the chair of the US House Committee on Small Business said on Wednesday, appealing to the Bush administration to let the market set the currency's value.

"The overvalued dollar has cost American manufacturers and farmers billions of dollars and hundreds of thousands of jobs the last few years, and it must be corrected," Rep. Donald Manzullo said in a statement.

"The dollar's value must be determined by market forces, not government intervention. I call on our government to step back and let the dollar correct itself," the Illinois Republican said.

"At the same time, we must ensure foreign leaders that we will no longer tolerate their actions that keep our dollar artificially inflated," Manzullo added.

He did not elaborate or explain what he meant by government intervention.

The largest US farm group, the American Farm Bureau Federation, told Congress last month that US farm exports have been shut out of key international markets due to the strong value of the US dollar, which makes American goods more costly for foreign buyers.

Manzullo, who chaired a hearing on Wednesday exploring the issue, acknowledged the dollar has fallen in recent weeks.

However, he noted that economists estimate the dollar is still overvalued 30 percent compared to other international currencies.

Manzullo on Wednesday also urged US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill to pressure countries like Japan and China to stop manipulating their currency markets.

Japanese monetary authorities have intervened in the currency market at least four times since late May and are estimated to have bought over 2 trillion yen ($15.97 billion) worth of dollars for yen.

Manzullo was among 24 US House lawmakers who signed a letter to O'Neill asking that he press Japan to stop manipulating foreign exchange rates, according to the Japanese news agency Jiji Press.

The report said the lawmakers also asked O'Neill to convey the US disapproval at a meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers to be held in Halifax, Canada on Friday and Saturday.

A Treasury spokesperson declined to comment when asked about the letter but underlined that there is no bilateral scheduled with Japan in Halifax, Canada.

O'Neill has ignored previous complaints about the strong dollar. He told the Senate Banking Committee on May 1 that he had no intention of shifting US dollar policy. Reiterating long-standing policy, O'Neill said that a strong dollar is in the US interest and that currency values reflect a country's basic economic strength. ***Reuters***

Fujitsu may start wireless service

TOKYO—Japan's Fujitsu Ltd. said on Thursday that it is considering starting mobile data services for business use by leasing bulk capacity from a telecoms carrier to tap into a potentially lucrative corporate mobile market.

A spokesperson for Fujitsu, Japan's largest computer maker, said the company might offer such services to corporate users via the network of a unit of Japan's No. 2 telecom carrier, KDDI Corp.

As the mobile market for consumers is nearing saturation, mobile operators are targeting corporate users, a relatively untapped and potentially high-margin segment.

"We are considering renting the DDI Pocket network as a way to provide a corporate solution business," the spokesperson said. "But the plan has not fully materialized yet."

Already, three companies are leasing the PHS (personal handyphone system) network from KDDI's wireless arm DDI Pocket as mobile virtual network operators (MVNOs), offering mobile services without having their own communications facilities.

DDI Pocket started wholesaling its network last year, giving opportunities for non-telecoms companies to tap into the world's second largest telecoms market.

The Japanese government has also been pushing incumbent carriers to open up their networks to foster competition.

A government panel studying deregulation in the telecoms industry is expected to submit a report to Telecommunications Minister Toranosuke Kata-yama in August, suggesting various measures such as easier entry.

DDI Pocket said an MVNO pays a leasing fee of 30 million yen ($240,000) every month to offer data transmission at 128 kbps (kilobits per second), twice as fast as the conventional fixed-line telephone service.

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun business daily said on Thursday that Fujitsu plans to start the service for corporate clients as early as July, and may expand its client base to individuals including users of its Internet service provider unit Nifty Corp.

The spokesperson said Fujitsu has decided neither when the service would be launched nor whether the company would expand it to individual clients.

Fujitsu shares were down 0.56 percent at 881 yen as of 0336 GMT, while the Nikkei average lost 0.81 percent. ***Reuters***

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on June 25, 2002 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the Meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 29, 2001
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2001
5. Approval of the 2001 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Reduction of the Par Value of the Corporation's Common Shares from Sixty Pesos (P60.00) to Forty Pesos (P40.00), Resulting in the Decrease of the Authorized Capital Stock from P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares and the Amendment for this Purpose of Article Seventh of the Amended Articles of Incorporation
7. Approval of the Increase in the Authorized Capital Stock from P33,333,333,360.00 Divided into 833,333,334 Common Shares to P50,000,000,040.00 Divided into 1,054,824,557 Common Shares and 195,175,444 Preferred Shares with a Par Value of P40.00 Per Share
8. Issuance of 195,175,444 Preferred Shares to PDIC as Partial Payment for P7,807M Worth of Previously Contracted Loans
9. Ratification of All Acts and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2001 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
10. Election of Directors
11. Appointment of External Auditor
12. Other Matters
13. Adjournment

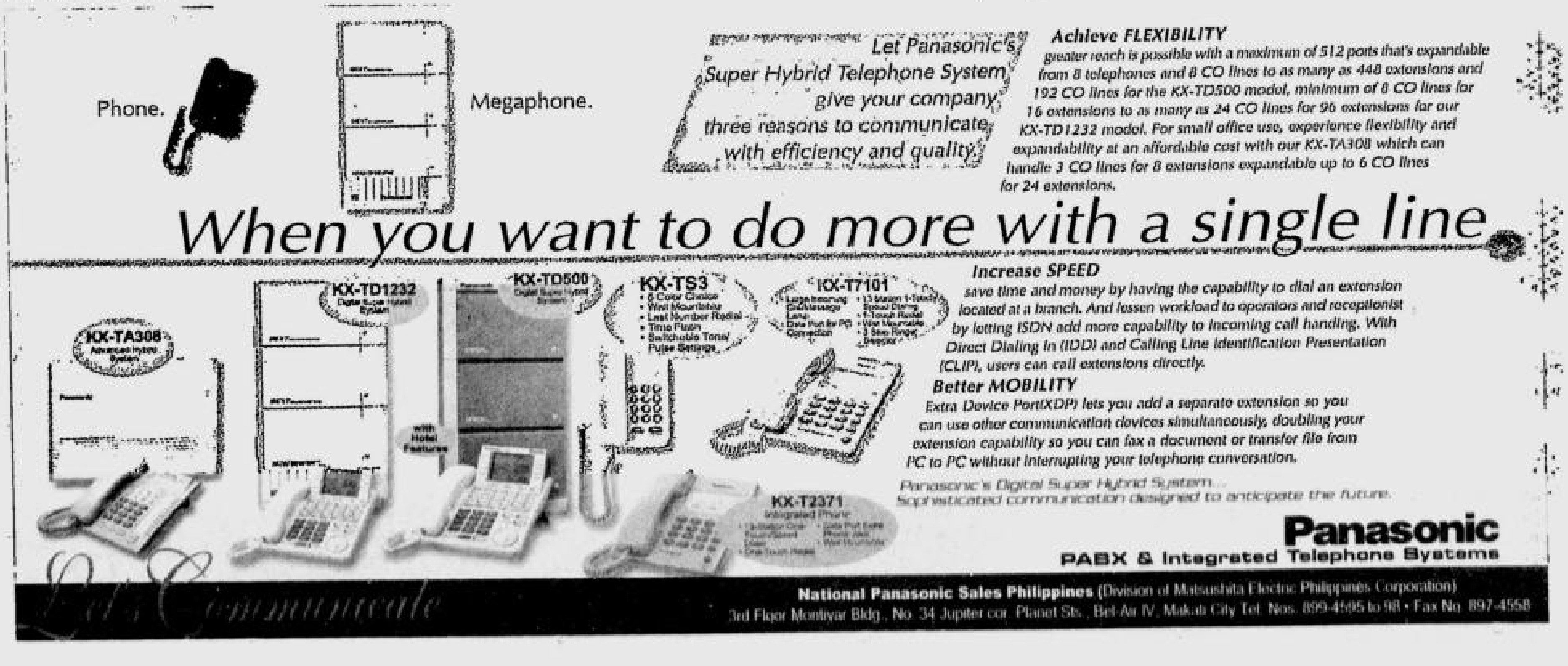
Minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors starting from June 26, 2001 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary. In addition, copies of the minutes of the last Annual Stockholders' Meeting will also be made available at the meeting venue for stockholders who wish to examine the minutes but who were unable to do so prior to the meeting.

Only stockholders of record as of May 31, 2002 will be entitled to vote at this meeting. For this purpose, the Stock and Transfer Books of the Corporation will be closed from June 17 to June 24, 2002.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a **PROXY** instrument to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. of June 20, 2002. A proxy instrument shall conform with the requirements of Sec. 58 of the Corporate Code, and shall be affixed with a duly paid documentary stamp tax in accordance with Sec. 192 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997.

Pasay City, May 17, 2002

MA. CECILIA L. PESAYCO
Corporate Secretary



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Japan to drop steel retaliation plans for now

TOKYO—Japan said on Thursday, it had temporarily dropped plans to impose retaliatory tariffs against US steel products after Washington expressed its intention to exempt more products from its own steel import curbs.

Japan had planned to impose 100 percent tariffs on $4.88 million worth of US steel and steel products from June 18.

The tariffs were part of a larger retaliation plan amounting to $123.43 million to be implemented if the World Trade Organization ruled against the United States for placing tariffs of up to 30 percent on steel imports to protect its industry.

Japanese Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma told reporters after telephone talks with US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick that Japan would hold off for now and hold further talks.

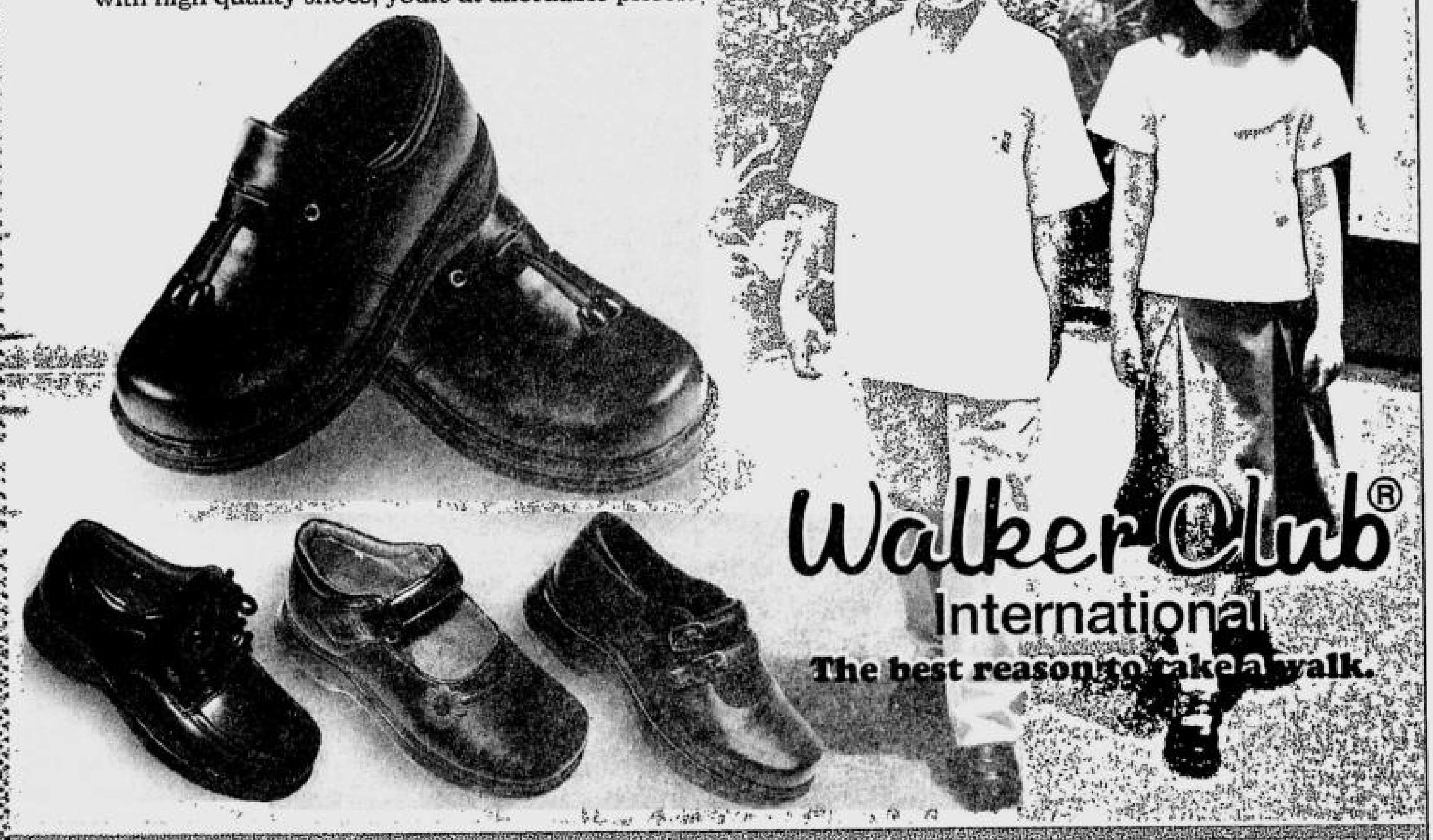
Hiranuma said Zoellick had told him Washington was carefully considering exemptions from US tariffs and that it would announce them in due course but the process would take more time.

"We got the impression that the United States was being constructive and taking into account our interests as well," Hiranuma said in a statement.

"Therefore, I have decided it was necessary to postpone our plans to raise tariffs from June 18 and continue talks with the United States."

Washington's tariffs angered major steel exporters including Japan, the European Union and South Korea, prompting them to come up with their own retaliatory tariffs against US products.

An official from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said the government had not set any deadline for the United States to announce which steel products were to be exempted. *Reuters*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Andersen wins moral victory, but little else

NEW YORK—Andersen may have won a moral victory in its battle with the US government following a deadlocked jury in its obstruction of justice trial, but the rapidly shrinking accounting firm has already lost the war, accounting industry experts said on Wednesday.

A 12-member federal jury in Houston, after seven days of deliberations, said late on Wednesday it was unable to reach a unanimous verdict on whether Andersen was guilty of criminally obstructing justice in the Enron Corp. scandal.

That in itself is seen as an unexpected victory for Andersen since this was widely expected to be a slam-dunk win for the government, industry experts said.

The prosecution, after all, boasted of no less than a guilty plea from David Duncan, Andersen's lead partner on the Enron account.

But for the few employees left at Andersen, there is little to cheer about. The accounting firm is a shell of its former self, reeling from hundreds of client and employee defections.

Few expect it to survive in any substantive form, much less return to its glory days as the conscience of the profession even if it were ultimately acquitted.

"It is a moral victory but it's a very hollow one because Andersen is left with no firm," said Jonathan Hamilton, editor of industry newsletter Public Accounting Report. "The government, which seemingly had this damning evidence, couldn't, after what six weeks now, get 12 people to agree that Andersen was guilty." *Reuters*

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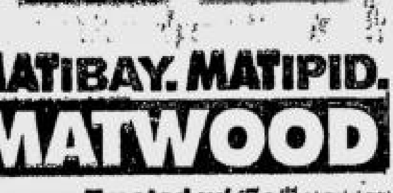

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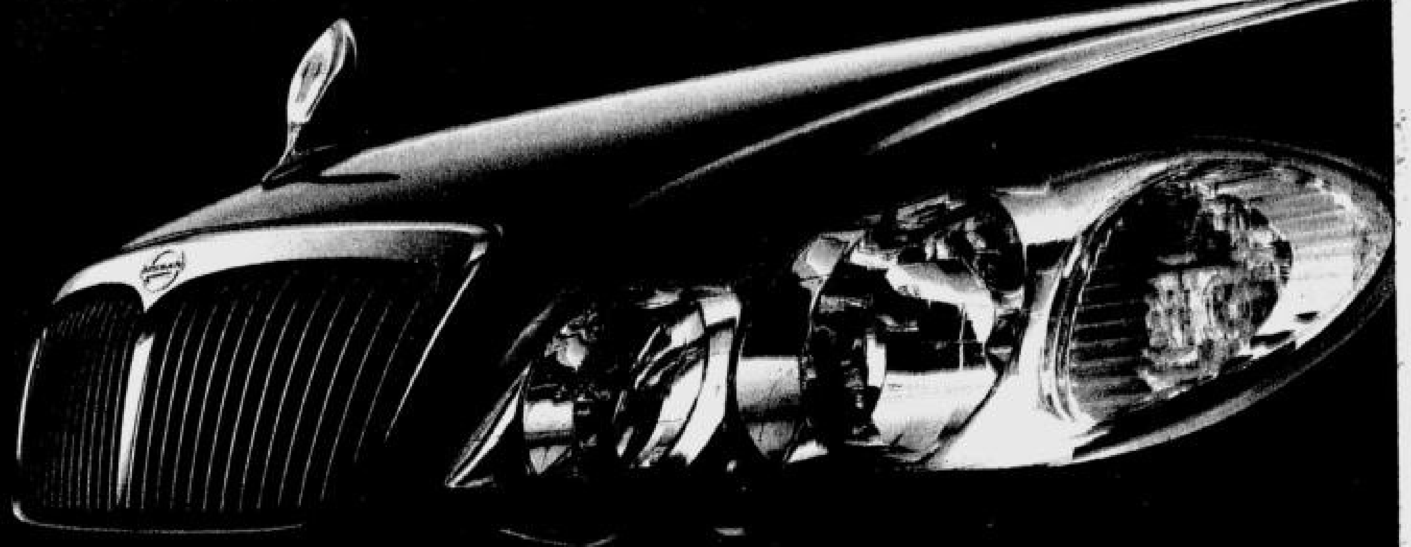

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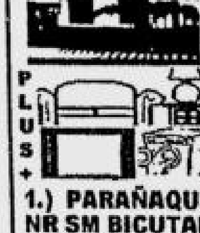

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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MANILA

1BR NR P OIL 5634007•5642878

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

•P5.5T Studio T-9267419

HOUSE

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Guadalupe 2Sty 5BR 2TB 15T Tel 8819011/7504596

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WANTED OFFICE CLERKS

- Must be college graduates for possible jobs at Ayala-Alabang
- Computer literate
- Must be less than 28 years old
- A good command of the English language

Preliminary interviews will be conducted at:

2A PDCP Bank Center, Herrera and San Agustin Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati

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MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION
JOINT VENTURE: MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND. CO., LTD.
Bo. Mapandan, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2002 Annual Meeting of Stockholders of MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC PHILIPPINES CORPORATION, will be held at the Human Development Center, Matsushita Electric Philippines Corporation, Bo. Mapandan, Ortigas Avenue Extension, Taytay, Rizal on **June 21, 2002** at 5:00 PM. The Agenda of the meeting is setforth below:

1. National Anthem
2. Call to Order
3. Establishment of Quorum
4. President's Annual Report
5. Approval of Minutes of 2001 Annual Stockholder's Meeting
6. Financial Report
7. Ratification of all acts, resolutions and proceedings of the Board of Directors and Management
8. Election of New Members of the Board of Directors
9. Other Business
10. Adjournment

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on **May 21, 2002** as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice and to vote at the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Stockholders who will not be able to attend the meeting may designate their respective proxies and send the proxy forms to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than **June 19, 2002.**

Registration starts at 3:00 PM on the scheduled meeting. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present any form of identification such as your Professional I.D., Passport or Driver's License.

Taytay, Rizal, May 21, 2002.

(Sgd.) **MAMERTO Z. MONDRAGON**
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – June 14, 2002)

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NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given on the lost of 30 shares of stock certificate of Rural Bank of Cabuyao, Inc. issued to RAMON G. MERCADO. If no contest is received new certificate will be issued
(PDI-May 31,June 7&14, 2002)

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan.
All unredeemed pledges of Dec. 2001 will be auctioned on June 20, 2002, 8:30 am.
Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of Dec. 2001 on June 20, 2002 10am, Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the ESTATE of the late JEANETTE L. MENDOZA was EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED among her heirs as per deed of extrajudicial settlement (Doc. No. 80, Page No. 17, Book No. 57, Series of 2002 of the Notarial Register of Notary Public Concepcion M. Jualas of Paranaque City,Metro Manila
(PDI-June7, 14 & 21,2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Vicenta M. Caluya has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs on June 4, 2002 as per Doc. No. 22384, Page No. 59, Book No. 44, Series of 2002 before Atty. Danilo Banares Notary Public for Makati City
(PDI-June 7,14 & 21,2002)

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, City of Makati, Metro Manila
Telephone Numbers: 817-4711 • 817-4712 • 817-4713 • 817-5017 • 817-5016 • 817-5014 • 813-1441/46
Fax (632) 815-2662 • 815-2660 • 817-3127
Zip Code 1226

INVITATION TO UNDERTAKE THE PROPOSED CATBALOGAN RECLAMATION PROJECT UNDER A JOINT VENTURE ARRANGEMENT

The **Public Estates Authority (PEA)** is inviting interested parties to submit proposal to undertake the reclamation and development of about Forty (40) hectares of foreshore and offshore areas along Maqueda Bay, Poblacion, Catbalogan, Samar intended for mixed use development such as commercial, residential, light industrial, among others.

The project shall be undertaken on a joint venture basis with the **PEA** and the **Municipality of Catbalogan** whereby the Proponent/Developer shall advance all costs of reclamation and development and shall be paid in the form of land to be reclaimed.

The **Proponent/Developer** must show proof of its legal, technical, and financial capability and must submit the following as attachments to its Letter of Intent to undertake the project:

1. Manager's/Cashier's Check payable to **PEA** in the amount of P20,000.00 as Filing Fee (Non-refundable);
2. SEC Registration and Company Profile for Principal Proponent and each firm, and member if a consortium;
3. Business Registration/License Papers;
4. Audited Financial Statements for the last three (3) years (balance sheet and income statement) of Principal Proponent;
5. Affidavit of undertaking to provide Financing for the Project in the amount not less than P300.00 million;
6. Credit lines in specific amounts as issued and certified by reputable bank(s).

All qualified **Proponent(s)/Developer(s)** shall be advised to submit a Project Pre-feasibility Study and Financial Proposal which shall be the basis of award by **PEA** of the **Project.**

Deadline of submission of Letter of Intent to undertake the **Project** including required attachments shall be on July 15, 2002 at the Office of Project Development and Evaluation (PDE), 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City not later than 5:00 PM.

(Sgd.) **BENJAMIN V. CARIÑO**
General Manager

(PDI -- June 1, 6 & 14, 2002)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation invites eligible suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

One (1) set Free Point Equipment
under FGO-20701

This invitation is open to all pre-qualified suppliers of PNOC-Energy Development Corporation. Interested suppliers not pre-qualified with PNOC-Energy Group of Companies as of this invitation are required to submit pre-qualification documents for our future requirements.

Bid documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Raffy S. Teylan** starting **May 24, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **P100.00.**

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **June 04, 2002, at 2:00 p.m.** at PNOC-EDC Purchasing Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Building 5.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security to be issued by the local agent/distributor, if any, with the amount indicated in the tender document, in the form acceptable to PNOC-EDC and must be delivered to the above office on or before **2:00 p.m. of June 24, 2002.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids will not be accepted.**

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground for PNOC-EDC's action.

(Sgd.) **SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL**
Chairman/President & CEO

(PDI--May 27 & June 14, 2002)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on 26 June 2002, 2:00 p.m., at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on **CASH BASIS:**

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
METRO MANILA			
VAB-52	Loyola, Grand Villas Subd., Baranka, Marikina City	1,320 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 204465)	P 6,760,000.00
MED-133	7 Calle Azul, Tierra Hermosa II, BF Executive Homes, Almanza I, Las Piñas City	266 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-70413) with one-storey building	P 1,611,600.00
LRD-151	26 Chico Road, Potrero, Malabon, Metro Manila	164 m² lot (TCT No. M-21189) with two-storey residential house	P 1,000,000.00
BATANGAS			
LAO-04	Brgy. Dagatan, Lipa City	9,312 m² agro-industrial lot (TCT No. T-132773)	P 7,916,200.00
MMC-164	National Road, San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	1,185 m² residential-industrial lot (TCT No. T-66841) with office/lab/factory and freezing equipment and accessories	P 4,364,000.00
CAVITE			
CST-7	Caridad, Cavite City	150 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-15275) with split-type building	P 441,000.00
VCP-98	Greenbreeze Subd. I, Bo. Lancaan, Dasmariñas Cavite	200 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. T-979116)	P 260,000.00
LAGUNA			
CST-1	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² commercial-industrial lot (TCT No. T-177629)	P 2,594,900.00
CST-2	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177809)	P 2,594,900.00
CST-3	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177810)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-4	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² vacant agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177808)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-5	Bo. Maytalang, Lumban, Laguna	2,359 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-177759)	P 2,359,000.00
CST-6	Don Manuel Subd., Diversion Rd., Brgy. Bulran Norte, Pila, Laguna	214 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-177830) with building and improvements	P 1,729,900.00
PAMPANGA			
VPI-75b	Dolores Heights, Brgy. Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	402 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 481055-R)	P 1,447,200.00
VPI-75a	Dolores Heights, Brgy. Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	4 adjoining individually titled vacant residential lots (TCT No. 481051-R to 481054-R) (216 m² each) (Sale on per TCT basis)	P 777,600.00 per TCT
VPI-75c	Don Bonifacio Subd., Brgy. Bonifacio, Balibago, Angeles City	6 individually titled residential lots (TCT Nos. 114587 to 114591 and 114593) (300 m² to 356 m²) (Sale on per TCT basis)	P 120,000.00 to P 142,400.00 per TCT
RIZAL			
LTY-50	35 Sto. Niño St., Ma. Corazon Subd. Cupang, Antipolo City	2 parcels of industrial-residential lot (total area of 520 m²) (TCT Nos. 284045 & 284046) with 2 two-storey office/factory bldgs., fence, water system and one set non-operational cold storage freezer/chiller.	P 2,660,000.00
LRD-110	Bagumbayan, Teresa, Rizal	3,747 m² interior agricultural lot (TCT No. M-96063) with piggery buildings and water system	P 1,918,000.00

CHATTELS (Sale on "as is, where is" basis)

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
MMC-164a	National Road, San Rafael, Sto. Tomas, Batangas	16 units various machinery and equipment for fruit juice processing	P 816,200.00
VPI-62	La Campana Cmpd., EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	7 units of construction/heavy equipment	P 3,100.00 to P 399,100.00 per unit
VLD-99a to 99c	Bo. Mamala, Sariaya, Quezon	7 units of feedmilling equipment with ACC Electric Genset; and storage tanks	P 58,700.00 to P 282,500.00
VPI-81	La Campana Cmpd., EDSA, Balintawak, Quezon City	1 unit Road Grader, HUBER WARCO	P. 160,000.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding.
2. To submit bid in DBP's official bid form available at the Acquired Assets Sales Unit, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours.
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:

892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 2128 for Code starting with L;
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2144 for Code starting with V;
815-1450 or 818-9511 loc. 2139 for Code starting with M;
818-9511 loc. 1429 for Code LAO; and
(043) 288-4399 or 818-5911 loc. 1435 (c/o Cynthia) for Code Nos. CST-1 to 7.

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI - June 13 & 14, 2002)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Cash cows

The modern-day bank got its name from the bench (*banca*) where an Italian moneylender would once have sat in the marketplace of a Renaissance city. However, some historians claim that the world's first banks opened much, much, earlier, in the Egypt of some 6,000 years ago. At the time a customer's account was kept not in coins or bills, but in cattle -- cows and oxen being accepted as local currency.

Classified Odd. Some bank robbers laugh all the way from the bank; others, cry. To the latter luckless category belonged David Rich, who tried to rob a bank in London in 1978. Wearing three stocking masks and a scarf over his face, Rich announced that he had a gun and ordered the staff and the customers to hit the floor. But so thorough was his disguise that Rich could hardly see -- instead of a gun he brandished the case of his eyeglasses. After several minutes of poking this weapon at the amused hostages, Rich realized his blunder and swiftly left the scene. He was arrested within minutes of his escape, hiding behind a nearby car.

WORD WATCH

Pilyo : from the Spanish *pillo*, 'sly, crafty; roguish.'

PDI -- June 14, 2002

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

INVITATION TO BID

The Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board (HLURB) invites interested parties to a public bidding for the **VARIOUS COMPUTER PARTS/MODULES** on **July 12, 2002** at exactly 2:00 p.m. Board Room, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City.

Bidders may secure the list of Pre-qualification documents and other bidding requirements at the PBAC Secretariat, ITG-MIS division, 2nd Floor, HLURB Building, Kalayaan Avenue corner Mayaman St., Diliman, Quezon City and for inquiries you may call thru Telephone No. **927-2731** or Fax No. **927-2698.**

Submission of duly accomplished Pre-qualification documents shall be held on **July 2, 2002** at 2:00 p.m.

HLURB reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any required formalities in the bids and to accept such bids which are advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) **FRANCISCO L. DAGÑALAN**
Commissioner and
Chairman, Awards & Contracts Review Committee

(PDI - June 14, 15 & 16 2002)

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OBITUARIES

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Genesis 1:3

"My soul finds rest in God alone
from Him comes my salvation."
Psalm 62-1

PUREZA BENITEZ DE LOS REYES

Peacefully went home to his Creator on the 11th day of June 2002 at the age of 76.

Her remains lie in state at St. Paul Parish Church, SSS Village, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 15, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.
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Our Dearly Beloved Inay

Ofelia L. Lopez

(May 15, 1942 - June 13, 2002)

Her husband **Mulong**; children **Ronald, Gina & Obet**; daughter-in-law **Mina** request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

She lies in state at Royal Chapel of Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels, Sucat Road, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Monday, June 17, 2002 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City, Metro Manila after the 2:00 PM Mass.

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"For God so loved the world, that
He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him
should not perish, but
have eternal life."

Dr. Nilo Enrile Mallari

Has joined his Creator on June 12, 2002
at the age of 52.

His mortal remains has been cremated and lie in state at St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish, Commerce Avenue, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City from June 13 to June 15, 2002.

His wife **Gigi**; children **Noel** and **Anya**; brother **Larry**; sister **Linda**; brother-in-law **Claro**; nephew **Carlo**; and niece **Nina**; and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

Holy Mass will be offered at 1:30 PM on June 16, 2002 at St. James Church, Ayala Alabang, after which interment follows.

In lieu of flowers, donations to Missionaries of Charity will be appreciated.

THE FEDERATION OF FREE FARMERS (FFF)
and
THE FEDERATION OF FREE FARMERS
COOPERATIVES, INC. (FFFCI)

Announce with deep sadness the demise of their
Founder and President

Dean Jeremias Ungson Montemayor

on 9 June 2002 at the age of 79.

The FFF and FFFCI and its Farmer-Members, Leaders, and Supporters, to whom he dedicated his life and career for 50 years, join his wife **Bing**, sons **Leonardo**, **Raul**, **Rafael**, **Lorenzo** (†), **Antonio** and **Moises**, daughters **Cecile**, **Christina**, **Marina** and **Frances**, his grandchildren, brothers, sisters and relatives in their hour of bereavement.

His remains lay in state at the Department of Agriculture-Bureau of Soils and Water Management Main Conference Hall last June 10-12, and brought to Tagum City, Davao for viewing by FFF/FFFCI members and leaders last 13 June 2002. His remains will be brought back to Manila, today (June 14) and will stay at the Department of Agrarian Reform Central Office from one o'clock to three PM before it will be finally moved to the family residence at 41 Highland Drive, Blue Ridge, Quezon City shortly after the necrological rites at DAR.

The Funeral Mass and necrological services will be held on Sunday, 16 June 2002 starting at 12 noon at the Ateneo de Manila College covered courts at Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Interment will follow immediately at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

IRINEO S. BARROZO, M.D.

December 15, 1919 - June 2, 2002

Passed away peacefully 9:30 a.m. at Eden Medical Center, Castro Valley, California.

Surviving **Dr. Barrozo** are:

- **Dr. Aurora Calimquim-Barrozo**, his wife of 47 years and his children with their respective families: **Dr. Donna Marie Barrozo**; **Lourdes B.** and **Lorenzo Ajel**, children **Marc** and **Hillary**; **Maria Aurora B.** and **Rizaldy Mananquil**, children **Mariza** and **Kyle**.
- Sisters **Juliana B. Muñoz** and children; **Emerita**; **Virginia**; **Celedonia**; **Dr. Maxima B.** and **Felix Bernal** and children.
- Other close relatives, as well as house staff and friends.

His body lies in state at the family residence (180 A.B. Fernandez East) in Dagupan City.

Interment will be on June 18, 2002 at the family mausoleum site at Eternal Gardens Memorial Park after a 2:00 p.m. Mass at St. Therese Church, followed by a get-together of family and friends for the "LUMPOS" or "TAPOS" at the Star Plaza Hotel, all in Dagupan City.

The family requests the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul; donations and gifts to the Mother Teresa House, Tapuac, Dagupan City in memory of Dr. Barrozo will be deeply appreciated.

(For further information, please call 075-523-6797 Dagupan City.)

Our Dearly Beloved

ENGR. FRANCISCO "KIKO" F. CLAUDIO

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 12, 2002
at the age of 79.

His wife **MALAYA**; children **CORAZON & AGUSTIN**, **CAESAR & EVELYN**, **CARMENCITA & LEONARDO**, **CYNTHIA & MELVIN**, **CHITO & JANET**, and **CARLO & CRISTINA**; grandchildren and great granddaughters request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Santiago City, Isabela Province.

He will be laid to rest at the Santiago City Cemetery on June 15, 2002 at 12 noon following the 10am Mass at St. Peter Memorial Chapel.

BENJAMIN MENDOZA MANGALI

of FLOS CARMELLI Flower Shop, Malabon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on June 12, 2002 at the age of 71.

His beloved wife **Amelia Clemente**; children **Ma. Carmela & Ralph Manzanares**, **Ma. Angela & Dennis del Rosario**, **Juan Paulo & Mirabell Valeriano Mangali**; grandchildren **Monica**, **Regina**, **Beatriz**, **Michelle & Juan Miguel**; only sister **Dra. Felicidad**; brothers **Benito & Clarita** (†), **Julio & Violeta**; in-laws **Alice**, **Primitivo Jr. & Zenaida**, **Rolando & Corazon**; request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in Floresco Funeral Homes at Gen. Luna St., Malabon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, June 16, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. at the Malabon Catholic Cemetery.

In Loving Memory
of

Atty. Ramon E. Atienza

May 13, 1921 – June 14, 1977

So sadly missed these past 25 years by his,
Wife, Sons, Daughters-in-law,
Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren,
Relatives and Friends

I am
the way,
the truth
and
the life.
No one
comes
to the
Father
except
through
Me.
John 14:6

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family and relatives of the late

LIM KIAO
(MRS. YU HONG TY)

who peacefully joined her Creator on June 3, 2002

wish to express their gratitude and appreciation
to all those who in one way or another
condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.

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Ultra-luxury carmakers eye China for new growth

BEIJING—A crowd four people deep encircles the stage, pushed back by gray-uniformed police.

Envious murmurs mingle with strains of classical piano and the constant pop of flashbulbs.

Kenneth Tsang, chief executive of the Beijing operations of Bentley Motor Cars, is overjoyed.

"Look at them," Tsang said, gesturing at the hundreds of people mobbing the British luxury carmaker's exhibit at the Beijing auto show, which runs through next week.

"They are saying 'Wow! W-O-W!' That is the reaction I want," Tsang gushed as scantily clad models draped themselves over four cars whose price tags total well over $2 million.

Luxury carmakers, faced with slowing sales in rich countries like Japan and the United States, are turning to relatively poor China as a new growth market.

A small but growing ultra-wealthy class is developing appetites for speed and luxury.

"We could not find a better time than now to come into China. We are looking at sustained and healthy economic growth, we have the accession to the WTO and the winning of the 2008 Olympics," Tsang said.

"We are looking at the spawning of a generation of young entrepreneurs," Tsang said. "They have not only money but also a passion for driving."

Cash for supercars

At China's largest auto show, Bentley and British sports car maker Group Lotus were among the most popular exhibits.

Thousands of people—many of whose incomes are probably just a few hundred dollars a month—elbowed each other for a glimpse of some of the fastest and most expensive driving machines on the planet.

Lotus, showing off a canary-yellow flagship Esprit and a maroon Elise roadster, used the auto show to open its first Beijing office and said it anticipated making its first sale next month.

"We've had a lot of prospective buyers," said Oh Kah Beng, deputy general manager of Lotus Cars Asia Pacific, based in Malaysia. Malaysia's Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional (Proton) owns 80 percent of Lotus.

Lotus aims to sell just five of the 1.68 million yuan ($203,000) Esprits in China this year. Global production of the 350-horsepower speedsters is just 300 a year, Oh said.

The curvy Elise—a relative bargain at just 698,000 yuan, and more readily available with 10,000 of them made a year—is likely to attract about 50 Chinese buyers this year, Oh said.

"When we came here two years ago we had six inquiries. Only one was from Taiwan, and two were women. And they were prepared to pay cash," Oh said, referring to interest in the Elise.

Speeding at 3 a.m.

Getting behind the wheel of a high-end car is somewhat of a novelty in China, where being chauffeured about has been a mark of wealth and status.

Legendary Italian sports car Ferrari cracked the China market nearly a decade ago and Germany's Porsche recently opened a dealership as well and is reported to sell several dozen cars a year.

And Italy's recently revived Maserati—under the control of Ferrari, which in turn is a unit of Fiat SpA—has wasted little time jumping in the fray.

Maserati executives, joined by the Italian ambassador to Beijing, threw open the doors to its first China showroom on Friday and peeled back a sheet to reveal a bright yellow 390-horsepower Spyder roadster in front of hundreds of curious passersby.

But it isn't easy owning a supercar in cities like Beijing, where the streets are clogged with around 1.75 million cars sputtering along, often with smokey and underpowered engines.

Cyclists and delivery tricycles dart in and out of the traffic, threatening the pristine paint jobs of such exotic cars.

"I know men who get up at 3 in the morning and drive to the airport and back just so they know what it's like to drive at 200 kph (125 mph)," said Kevin McCann, executive director of the Audi unit of Germany's Volkswagen (China) operations.

The Chinese pay dearly for such performance. The government has been paring back import tariffs under its WTO commitments, but high-performance cars still face duties of more than 50 percent.

Eclipsing Hong Kong and Japan?

Bentley opened its first China dealerships in Shanghai and the southern city of Shenzhen this year. Since opening last week, its Beijing office has taken deposits on nearly 10 cars and verbal agreements bring the total to about 20, Tsang said.

Tsang describes his customers as property developers, manufacturers and high-tech moguls in their early 40s, meaning they grew up during the grinding poverty and political upheaval of Mao Zedong's Cultural Revolution.

Luxury sedans such as Daimler Chrysler's Mercedes-Benz, Germany's BMW and Volkswagen's Audi are familiar sights in major Chinese cities, but enthusiasts now hunger for more.

"It is something to massage the ego. It is an instrument with which to mark their success," Tsang said of the meticulously crafted Bentleys and Rolls Royces.

Cars cost from 3.68 million yuan for its 6.8 liter, 400-horsepower Arnage model, to 8.88 million yuan for a special stretch limousine. The firm hopes to sell 30 cars this year in China, Tsang said.

That would put China on a par with super-rich Hong Kong, which has long boasted of having the highest density of Bentley and Rolls Royce cars of any city in the world but is suffering yet another economic slump and has sales of 25 to 30 cars a year.

Tsang believes China's growth prospects are so strong that sales could hit 100 vehicles next year, putting it on par with Japan, which has struggled with recession for the past decade.

Bentley's strongest markets are still the United States and Europe, which each buy 400 to 600 cars a year. Bentley made 1,800 cars last year.

Other executives are more cautious, but share Tsang's enthusiasm for China and say the 100-car mark can be hit within a few years.

"This growth will not be replicated anywhere else in the world," said Richard Charlesworth, director of special customer commissions and heritage.

Reuters

Searching for right business . . .

From page B12

would be confident starting tutorial services; seamstresses would be in their element manufacturing garments or stuffed toys and carpenters may opt to diversify into sash making.

ISSI tells them that by starting closer to home, they won't stray too far away.

Alfonso Carnay is one example. He worked for more than 20 years as installation foreman of a big wood tile company in Quezon City. When he left to be on his own, he thought of setting up a small wood tile making company.

Alcar grew to become a major supplier of wood tiles to building construction contractors and dealers.

Similarly, a hobby could become the basis of a full-time successful enterprise. Do you have one that you can expand into a business?

Cecile Nicolas loved collecting home accessories. Her friends loved her taste and convinced her to sell them some of the décor items. Before she knew it, she had begun a small, home-based business that eventually prospered.

Technical training is also closely linked with entrepreneurship. You will do well to begin a business based on some vocational or trade skills you have acquired, such as auto repair, computer technology, cooking or bookkeeping.

Motivations for going into business or the "why" aspect should also be examined. A bored middle-class, urban housewife would decide differently from another, in a depressed rural community, who is driven into business by necessity.

'Where' aspects

Where you will base your business is also important. What are the material resources found in plentiful supply in your town, city or province that can be turned into profit? What skills are available on which to base a business? Is there a market need that is not being filled in your area?

Families outside Metro Manila used to come to the city just for shopping trips. They would come for holiday shopping or to get supplies for their kids when a school year begins.

Entrepreneurs wised up to this need. And what do you know!—shopping malls have been built and are still being built all over the country.

Find out if your place is a growing or a declining market. In a growing market you can build a business without having to take orders away from anyone. In a declining market, it's much more difficult. You may get into a price war with competitors.

Other tips

You may have come up with a number of business ideas as a result of looking within and looking around. As a result, you may be hard pressed to screen your list. Here is how to choose which enterprise to put up, among so many choices:

Look for a competitive advantage to ensure a successful product or service.

There are only four possible kinds of advantage:

(1) Price—your product is comparable to existing lines, but significantly cheaper;

(2) Performance—your product does more than the competition or does it more economically or more quickly;

(3) Delivery/Accessibility—if the present suppliers are a long way from the market, you may be able to compete by offering quick delivery;

(4) Novelty—your product is entirely new but may catch the fancy of your market. Here, you have no direct competition, but you may have to spend more on introducing the concept as well as the product.

Other possibilities to consider: (1) subcontracting, a promising way by which small firms can start fabricating and supplying parts for larger companies; (2) public sector purchasing, which small businesses can explore because government offices are still required by law to purchase goods and materials from local producers and manufactures; (3) franchising, which is often described as the "business with the least fears."

The questions may look simple but they are actually tough to answer. If you do come up with good answers, then you may be on your way to building the next successful Filipino enterprise. *(Learn more about how to start your own business at the one-day Appreciation Course on Entrepreneurship or ACE which will be conducted by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries on June 25. Call up Ofie Bravo or Tes Santos at 928-7076 to 79; 926-63-16.)*

Tax consequences of de facto merger

By Racquel T. Ros
SGV & Co.

TAX-FILES

CORPORATIONS usually reorganize themselves to improve their financial condition.

The reorganization or restructuring may involve capital adjustments within a corporation or major changes in the financial structure of two or more related corporations.

An ordinary merger or consolidation under the Corporation Code of the Philippines is only one of the many types of corporate reorganizations or corporate restructuring.

A de facto merger is another type of corporate reorganization allowed under the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997. It involves the acquisition by one corporation of all or substantially all the properties of another corporation.

As the term denotes, de facto merger is not the same as the ordinary corporate merger or consolidation under the Corporation Code, the latter more accurately referred to as the statutory merger or consolidation.

Under Section 40(C)(6)(b) of the NIRC, "merger" or "consolidation" refers not just to statutory merger but the acquisition by one corporation of all or substantially all the properties of another corporation solely for stock.

For a transaction to be regarded as a merger or consolidation under the NIRC, it must be undertaken for a bona fide business purpose and not solely to escape tax burdens.

In determining whether the transferred property constitutes a substantial portion of the property of the transferor, the term "property" shall include cash assets of the transferor.

To implement the provision of the NIRC on de facto merger, the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) issued Revenue Memorandum Ruling No. 1-2002 dated April 25, 2002.

What does the phrase "substantially all the properties of another corporation" mean? The phrase is defined in BIR General Circular No. V-253 dated July 16, 1957 to mean "the acquisition of one corporation of at least 80 percent of the assets, including cash, of another corporation," which "has the element of permanence and not merely momentary holding."

Unlike in a statutory merger, the transferor in a de facto merger does not necessarily lose its corporate existence. A de facto merger does not always result in a corporate dissolution.

Accordingly, the transferee does not automatically assume the rights, liabilities and privileges of the transferor.

A de facto merger is similar to a transfer to a controlled corporation under the same Section 40(C)(2) of the NIRC except for the requirement that 80 percent of the transferor's assets, including cash, are transferred to the transferee.

However, a de facto merger and a transfer to a controlled corporation are different on two aspects: (1) the transferor in a de facto merger is a corporation, while in a transfer to a controlled corporation, the transferor may be a corporation or an individual.

And (2) in a de facto merger, there is no requirement that the transferor gains control (that is 51 percent of the total voting power of all classes of stocks of the transferee entitled to vote) as a condition for the non-recognition of gain or loss on the transfer.

What is essential in a de facto merger is that the transferee acquires all or substantially all the properties of the transferor.

Tax consequences

The tax consequences of a de facto merger are as follows:

1. Income Tax. The transferor shall not recognize any gain or loss on the transfer of the property. Hence, the transferor is not liable to pay capital gains tax, income tax or creditable withholding tax on the transfer of such property to the transferee. Moreover, the transferee is not subject to income tax on its receipt of the property as contribution to its capital, even if the value of the property exceeds the stated or par value of the shares issued to the transferor.

2. Donor's Tax. The transferor is not subject to donor's tax, even if the value of the property exceeds the par or stated value of the shares of the transferee issued to the transferor.

3. Value Added Tax (VAT). The transferor is not liable to VAT on the transfer of the property if it is not engaged in a business that is subject to VAT under Title IV of the NIRC. Assuming that the transferor is subject to VAT, no VAT liability shall arise pursuant to Section 4.100-5(b) (1) & (3) of Revenue Regulations No. 7-95, as amended. It should be noted that unlike in statutory merger, the transferee corporation in a de facto merger cannot use or absorb the unused input tax of the transferor.

4. Documentary Stamp Tax (DST). The DST consequences of the transfer of assets are as follows:

a. On the transfer of real property. P15 on each P1,000 or a fraction based on the payment for the real property or the fair market value, whichever is higher;

b. On the transfer of shares of stock held by the transferor. P1.50 on each P200 or fractional part based on the par value of the shares of stock.

c. On the original issuance of shares of stock of the transferee. P2 on each P200 or a fraction based on the par value of the shares of stock.

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- Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, Inc. (JAMA)
- Japan Auto Parts Industries Association (JAPIA)

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- Introduction and report on dispatching experts to ASEAN auto suppliers by JODC scheme
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Searching for right business? Take a good look at yourself

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co

AT THE UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries, the most frequently asked question during entrepreneurship fora is: "What is the best business to go into?"

ISSI's standard answer is "it depends," which is then elaborated on to cover "who," "why," "where," "when" and other variables.

In effect, Issi advises entrepreneurial hopefuls to look at who they are, and why, where, when they want to go into business in their search for the "best business" to invest in.

Looking within

You can start by looking at who you are. What do you do best? Where do your skills, talents, interest and experience lie? Start from there.

We then tell them that it makes sense to start a business close to what they already are, know or have. Begin by looking for products, processes, or services you already know something about.

Many ideas for small businesses were the direct result of experience in a previous job. Teachers, for instance,

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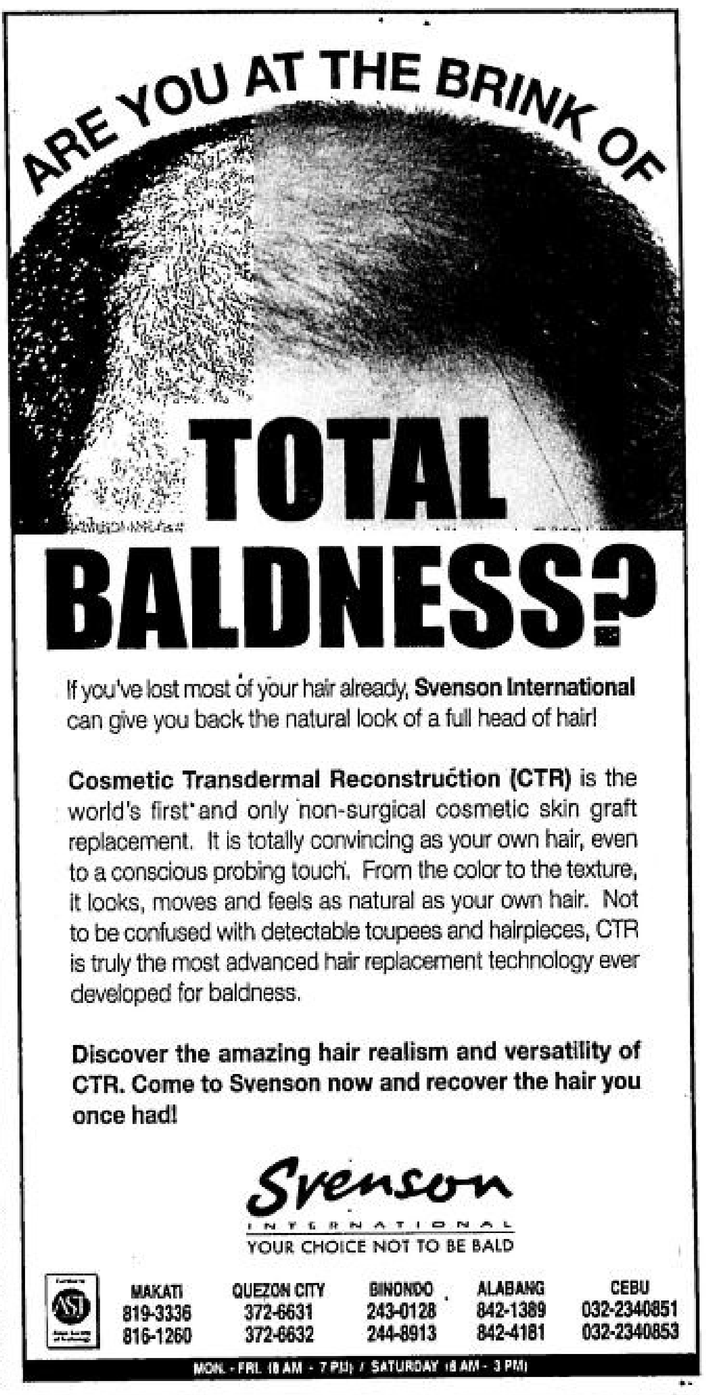

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BUSINESSFriday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Searching for right business? Take a good look at yourself

By Myrna Rodriguez-Co

AT THE UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries, the most frequently asked question during entrepreneurship fora is: "What is the best business to go into?"

ISSI's standard answer is "it depends," which is then elaborated on to cover "who," "why," "where," "when" and other variables.

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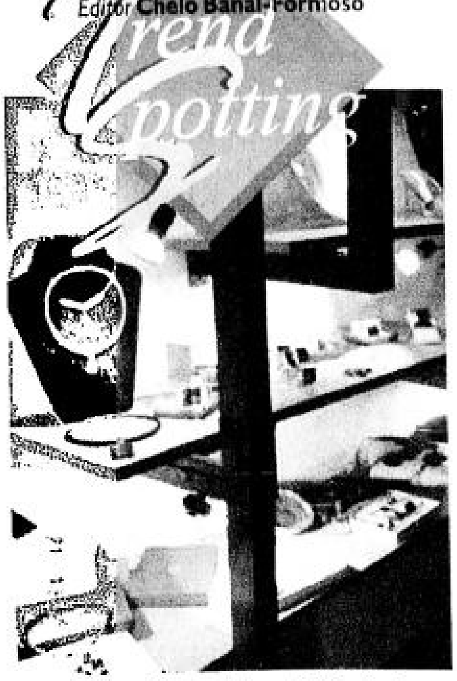
LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso



USING ceramics and glass, Silvia Beghe fashions the most usual pieces set in copper and silver in her San Gimignano shop.

Rocks that rock

By Kitty Go
Contributor

ONE QUALITY that is absolutely *out* in my book is preciousness (as in "look-at-this-it-is-so-expensive" fashion). It is so out. Saturn has a better chance of being in my orbit than, say, new designer bags, Manolos that have not walked half a mile beyond a Tai Ping carpet, looks so iconic that you recognize the label before you do the wearer and jewelry that would look better in a vault than on you.

> On the streets of Rome, the ring stones are so large they can be taken for deadly weapons

It's not that I don't appreciate big stones. I love them but I cannot imagine wearing them in a prong setting to, as jewelers say, "show the facets of the stone."

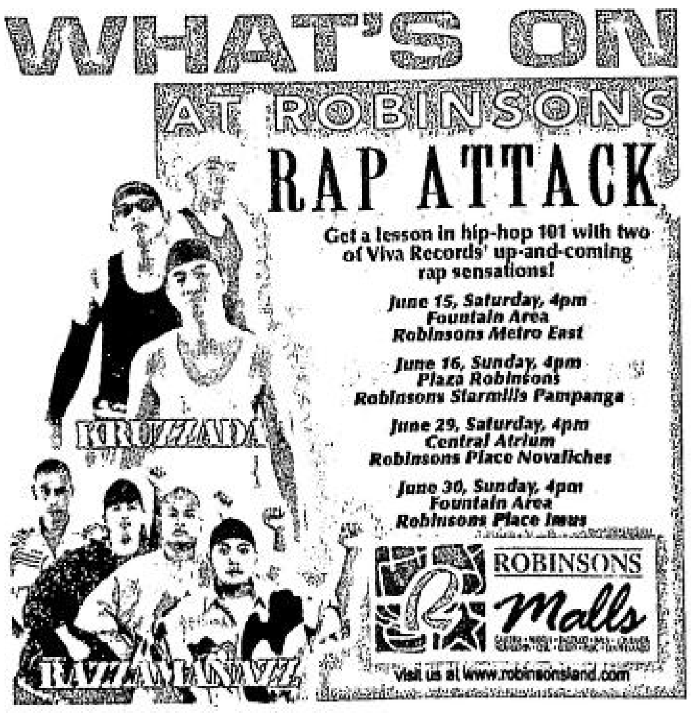
I found lots of jewelry using large, semi-precious stones on the streets of Rome. Ring stones were so large they could be classified as weapons; the pendants were almost the size of shields. Stefano Fiori is worth a visit, if you like semi-precious rocks set in silver. The store carries Asian and Roman inspired jewelry using agate, jasper, lapis lazuli, obsidian and other colored stones at reasonable prices from as low as 10 euros/US$. Strangely, the store also sells Italian lamps similar to what we know as Tiffany lamps.

Unusual

Gamani in Rome also designs their own pieces using precious stones like diamonds, rubies, emeralds, coral and pearls, but in unusual contemporary styles or in reproductions of Greco-Roman and other historical pieces. Clients have brought in pictures of old paintings and had jewelry copied. They are specialists in restoration and repair of old pieces and sales of South Sea pearls. Shipping is worldwide.

One thing about Italians is they know their glass and ceramics—a bit rougher than Japanese and Chinese porcelain but definitely just as beautiful. In her shop in San Gimignano (in

ROCKS/ p.C8



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Time for body and soul

WILL the Filipino catch on to what's hot in well-being and lifestyle the Versace way? Simona Sangali and Charlie Jeswani can only be confident they will. After all, Sangali is the export area manager of Versace and Jeswani the president of Charlie Ken Marketing, the exclusive local distributor.

In fragrances does the House of Versace choose to speak as it dwells deep into the olfactory sensation to evoke three essential moods for the body and soul with its new Versus line of fragrances. For the young urban professional and the affluent, it is Time for Versus.

TIME FOR ENERGY

Time for energy

For that needed energy to face life and be ready to go, Versus Time for Energy defines the start of your day with a citrus/tea fragrance to wear what is the cosmetic equivalent of an energy drink and a fistful of multivitamin. Versus introduces an exotic combination of "the fizzy, clean sensation of mandarin, (Japanese) *yuzu* and (Chinese) oolong tea with a delicate bouquet of water blooms and wisteria, spiced with *schizandra* (an oriental berry) and based in amber and musk." Exotic enough to be worth its pricey tag at P2,085.

Moreover, you can bathe with its Pure Energy Shower Gel that invigorates and soothes the skin with micro jojoba grains, leaving the body fresh for hours, and a Vibrant Body Scrub that smoothens and tones the skin. A Fresh Touch Hydrating Body Gel comes as an after-shower hydration, capped with a Styling Hair Gel with wheat proteins to lend form, volume and shine to hair. Feeling good, you are ready to face life!

TIME FOR PLEASURE

Time to relax

When you want to recover from a hard day or cool down before bedtime, it is time to let yourself go completely with a de-stressing line to retrieve internal peace. Take the Versus prescription of indulging in its Time to Relax face and body care fragrances extracted from *kava-kava* (a South Pacific plant used by natives to make a soothing drink), with avocado oil rich in lipids, amino acids and vitamin A and B.

The "balancing green leaves of *kava-kava* and freshness of melon water fruit with a core fragrance of relaxing blooms of hawthorn, apple blossom and freesia enriched with juicy avocado and based in amber and cedar" ought to do the trick. The scent is sour green and aromatic, you'll smell delicious.

You can compliment your relaxation mode with Versus Delicate Cream Powder for a velvety, silky feeling skin. Massage with its Moisturizing Massage Mousse to further relax mind and body. Thereafter, a soothing bath is in order with its Milky Bath Essence. While almost in nirvana, you can pamper your face with the Relaxing Face Mask to help reduce signs of fatigue accumulated during the day. Relaxation is priceless: if you have to ask, you can't afford it.

TIME TO RELAX

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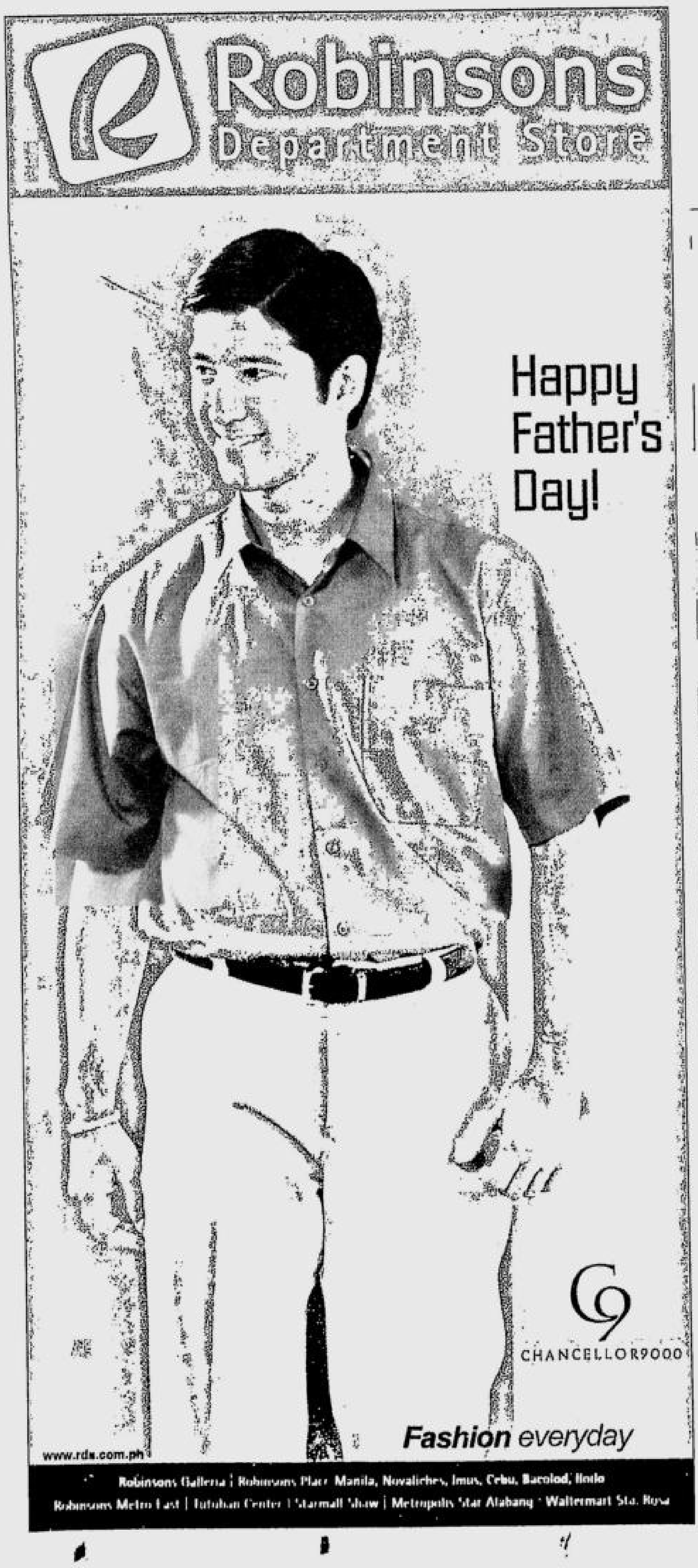
Time for pleasure

Anytime you want to pamper your body or caress your skin, indulge in Versus' Time for Pleasure with the floral fruity scent. It is "a rich cocktail of red fruits such as bilberry, strawberry and blackberry with a velvety heart of peach and apricot in a sensual aroma of vanilla and musk" you'll want to drink it.

Sounds delicious but they are ingested not by mouth but through the olfactory ducts and the largest organ, the skin. Bilberries are an excellent source of bioflavonoids that protect blood vessels and combat aging, and are consequently the perfect ingredient to prevent and counterbalance the damage caused by too many late nights. Apricots are a rich source of sugars, minerals and vitamins indispensable for beautiful skin.

Anytime you want to

Versus has combined various natural ingredients to achieve the desired mood, anytime you want to, into formulations that relieve stress, invigorate and moisturize—a condition conducive to the pursuit of meaning in life. The Time for the latest fragrance and body care from Versus has just been launched in the country with a fashion show at the Glorietta 4 Park, Makati. *Lynett Villariba*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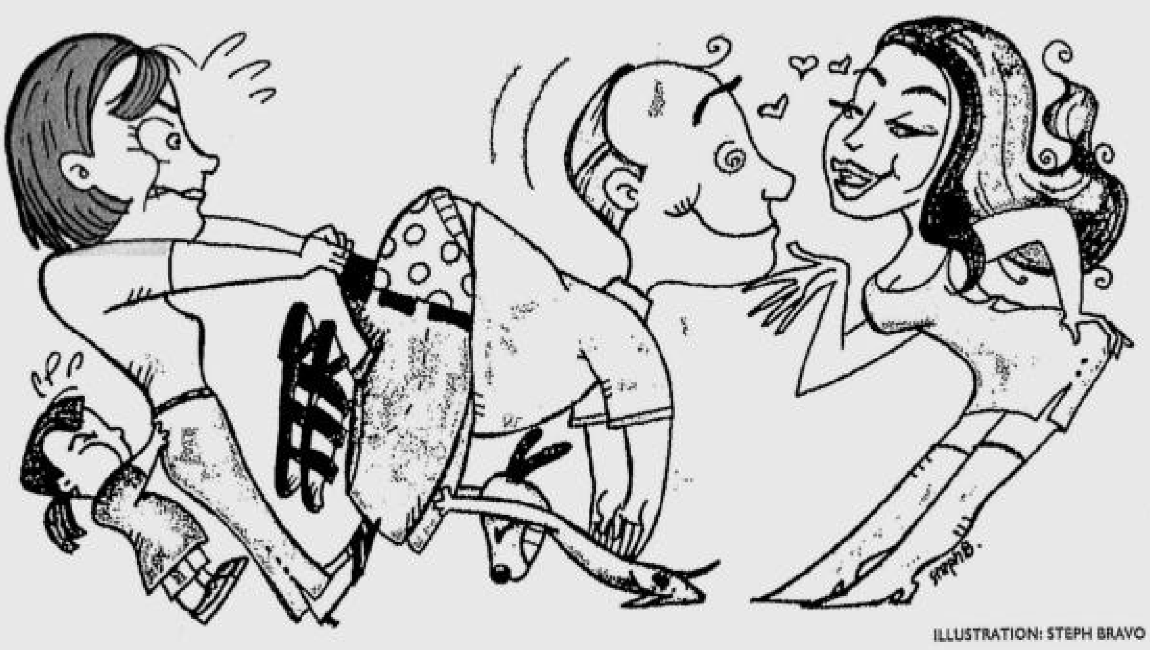

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Is male infidelity genetic?

A man feels a compulsion to test continuously his virility and assure himself that he is still desirable to others

By Jose Javier Reyes
Contributor

MANY books have explored the male midlife crisis but no theorizing and philosophizing could justify an awful fact: males, gentlemen or boors, reach a certain point in their lives when they completely lose their sense of propriety and proportion—and leave.

Over midnight snacks, my friend was too tired to cry although she was never really one to break out in a soap opera aria. Her husband of almost 30 years was packing his bags and leaving. Predictably, a third party was involved. Oh, the reason is much-too-much a cliché to try to elaborate in the most purple of prose. So he got horny—then crazy—and was now abandoning domesticity for an adventure more exciting than attending a Parents-Teachers Association meeting to discuss dangerous drugs, and premarital sex on campus, or a village association general assembly on effective recycling methods.

Somehow in this macho-oriented culture of ours, the virility of the male is the one guaranteed measure of his worth in the order of the cosmos. So the bland golf-playing, basketball-addicted husband starts behaving like a prepubescent discovering the joys of masturbation over some sassy, sexy and not necessarily younger female of the species. This affirms not only his *pagkapogi* but, more importantly, his *pagkabarako*. This genus of schmucks keeps Katrina Legarda very busy.

Crossroads

The male reaches a crossroad when his very existence seems to center on his "plumbing." He feels a compulsion to test continuously his virility (hopefully not his fertility) and assure himself that despite a receding hairline, beer belly or, in certain cases, ridiculously buffed physique resulting from a neurotic obsession with gyms and sports, he is still desirable to others—aside from the mother of his children.

If my friend were a certified frump who could wear a tube dress or a two-piece bathing suit without people noticing much of a difference, her husband's decision would not have been surprising. People would simply cluck their tongues and mumble, "*Eh, siya naman kasi. Nagpabaya.*" Or maybe, "*Kung ganyan naman ang hitsura ng* wife *mo, gaganahan ka ba?*" He would get sympathy and understanding for marrying someone who has turned out to be a cow.

But she remains too pretty for her age, definitely smarter than most and independent-minded to a fault. My friend exudes the kind of charm that only maturity can bestow. Years of experience have created a vintage quality that one cannot find in younger, more bosomy but undeniably vacuous vava-vooms whose conversation ranges from giggle to blabber.

Eh, bakit siya pinagsawaan? That seems to be the irony. Women are brought up to be genteel daughters, good wives and perfect

IS MALE/ p.C7

Real People. True Stories.

"Teenager? You must mean my daughters! With Imedeen, my skin's smooth even without make-up."

Joanna Valencia-de Jesus,
33, AVP for Finance, interior design student,
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Ultrasound images of the skin structure: First photo shows photodamaged dermis; second photo shows denser structure which implies better support and ability to hold moisture.

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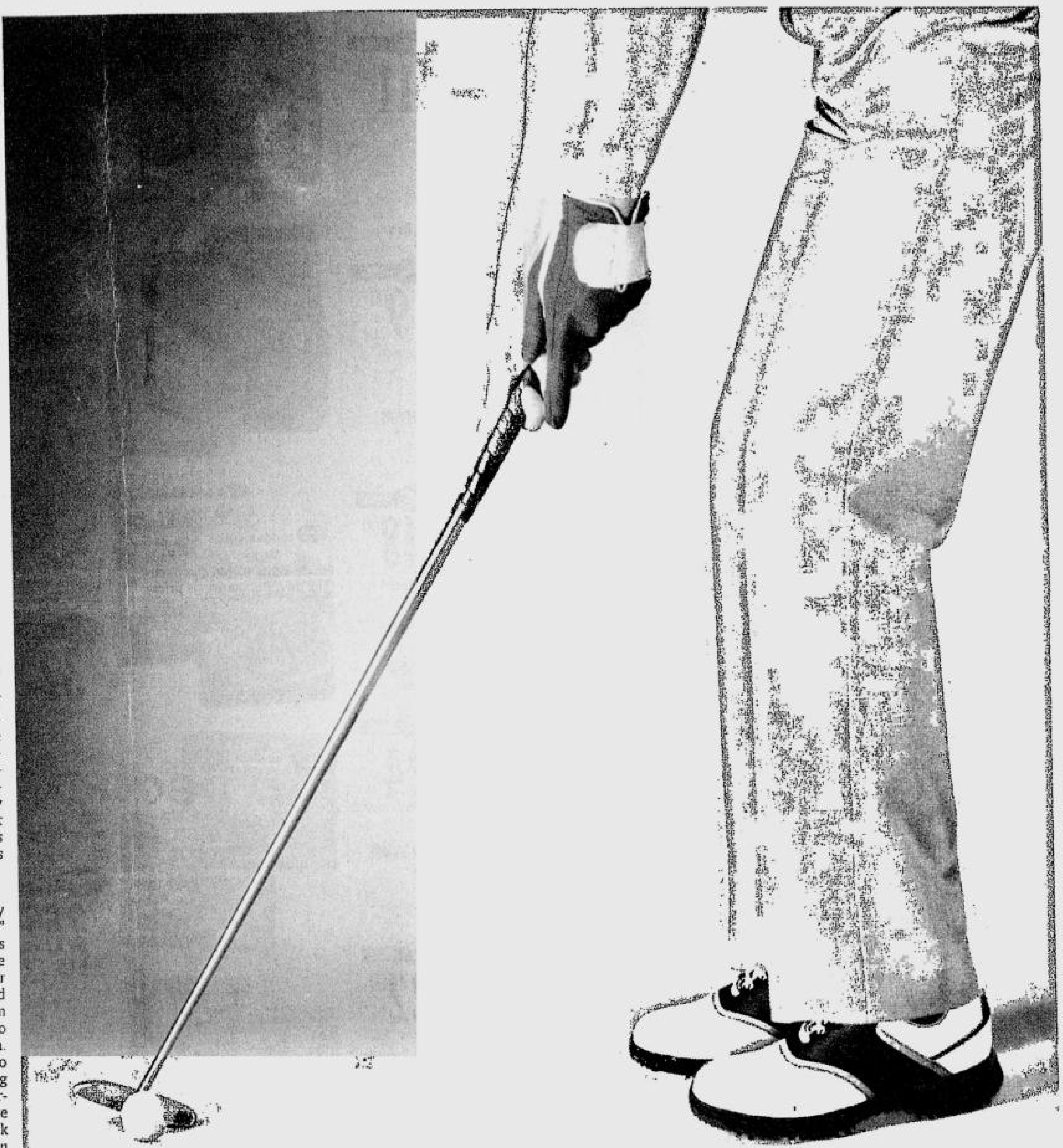
The Skin Care Tablet



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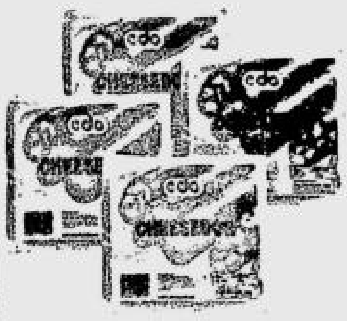

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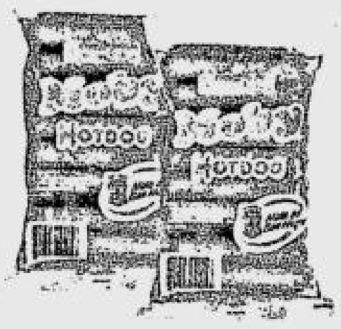
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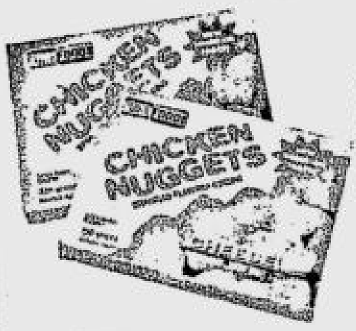
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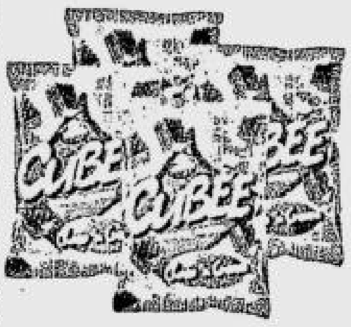
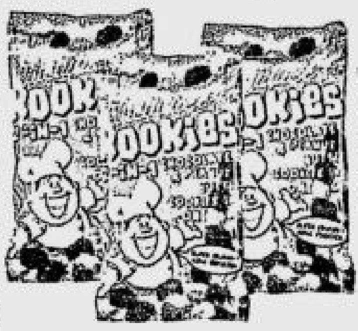
TLC PRICE
P 48^{00}/ea.


NISSIN
Cubee Wafer
- Vanilla Fudge
- Choco 'n Cream
30 g
TLC PRICE
P 4^{25}/ea.


WHAMMO'S
Kookies
- Chocolate & Peanut Butter
33 g / 10's
TLC PRICE
P 39^{75}/pk.
Reg. Price 42.00

JACK 'N JILL
Pretzels
- Chocolate
40 g
TLC PRICE
P 5^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 5.75

HUMPY DUMPY
Tortilla Chips
- All Flavors
40 g
TLC PRICE
P 3^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 3.75

SENECA
Apple Chips
- All Flavors
85 g
TLC PRICE
P 63^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 66.75

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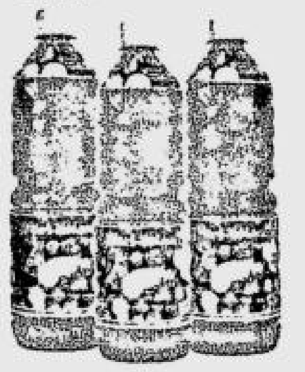
JO-NA'S
Snappy
- Cheese, 60 g
Shrimpop Royale
50 g
TLC PRICE
P 8^{75}/ea.

TANG
Powder Juice Drink
- Orange
Refill
500 g
TLC PRICE
P 35^{25}/ea.

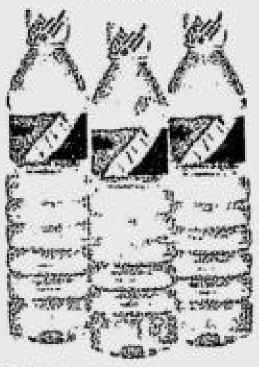
SUNKIST
Juice Drink
- Orange
250 mL
TLC PRICE
P 8^{50}/ea.
Reg. Price 8.75

NESTLE
Premium Milk
- Chocolate
- Full Cream
- Low Fat
250 mL
TLC PRICE
P 16^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 19.00

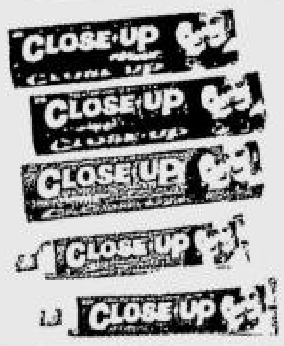

NUTRI-LICIOUS
Juice Drink
- Calamansi
1 L
TLC PRICE
P 130^{50}/btl.
Reg. Price 136.50

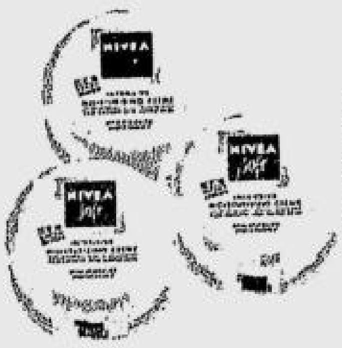
DEL MONTE
Pineapple Juice
1 L (46 oz.)
TLC PRICE
P 32^{25}/ea.
Reg. Price 33.50

PEPSI
In Can
330 mL
TLC PRICE
P 10^{00}/can
Reg. Price 10.95


VIVA
Mineral Water
500 mL
TLC PRICE
P 9^{75}/btl.
Reg. Price 10.25

CHIVAS REGAL
Scotch Whisky
750 mL
TLC PRICE
P 903^{00}/btl.
Reg. Price 950.00


CLOSE-UP
Toothpaste
- Red
- Blue
- Green
150 mL
TLC PRICE
P 53^{50}/ea.


NIVEA
Soft Moisturizing Creme
100 mL
TLC PRICE
P 94^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 99.00

CREAM SILK
Conditioner
- On Selected Variants
100 mL
TLC PRICE
P 35^{00}/ea.

BF
Styling Gel
- On Selected Variants
500 mL
TLC PRICE
P 88^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 97.75

SILKA
Papaya Whitening Lotion
200 mL
TLC PRICE
P 69^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 79.75

HIYAS
Papaya Whitening Soap
With Leaves
135 g
TLC PRICE
P 29^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 32.75

TENDER CARE
Bath Soap
125 g
TLC PRICE
P 18^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 19.75

REXONA
Deodorant Stick
- All Variants
50 g
TLC PRICE
P 102^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 106.50

BENGAY
Topical Analgesic
Greaseless
57 g
TLC PRICE
P 119^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 124.75

GEM
Table Napkin
- Folded
40's
TLC PRICE
P 15^{00}/pk.
Reg. Price 16.75

CLEENE
Bathroom Tissue
- Silky Soft
2 Ply
4's
TLC PRICE
P 55^{75}/pk.
Reg. Price 58.75

DRYPERS
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- Large, 24's
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Reg. Price 222.50

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TLC PRICE
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Reg. Price 49.75

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- Red
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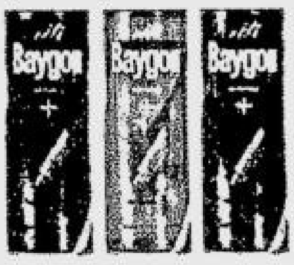
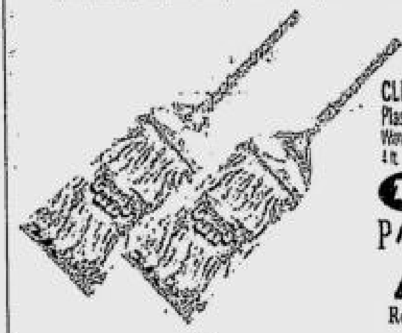
TLC PRICE
P 87^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 91.75

FLUFFY
Fabric Conditioner
- Lemon
- Jasmine
1 L
TLC PRICE
P 64^{75}/ea.
Reg. Price 74.75


BAYGON
Aerosol Insect Killer
350 g
TLC PRICE
P 130^{00}/ea.
Reg. Price 144.75


CLEAN'S-UP
Plastic Handle
With Mop Head
4 ft.
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P 279^{75}/ea.
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SCOTCH-BRITE
Ease n' Grip
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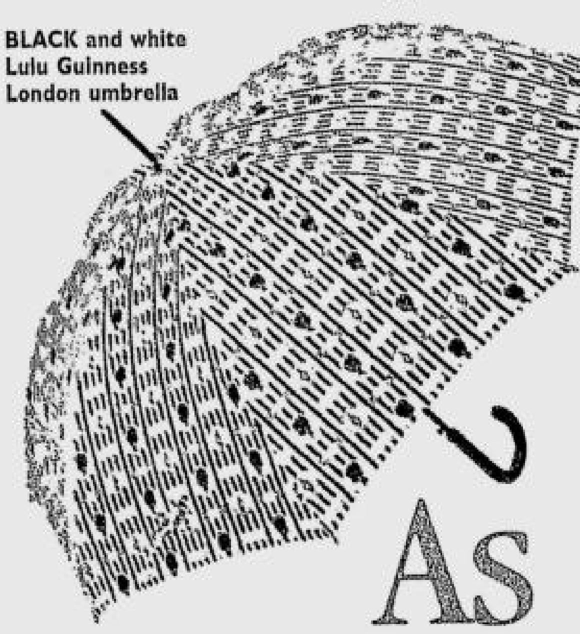


BLACK and white Lulu Guinness London umbrella

When it's nasty out there, wish the brightness in by getting into stylish gear

RED Bulldog umbrella by Anya Hindmarch London

As right as rain

Text by Cheche V. Moral
Photos by Roger Carpio

THE RAINY months are here but there is no reason to step out of the house and end up looking like a drenched puppy. Check out Wish boutique's chic solutions for this season.

Candy-colored vinyl jackets by Courreges Paris matched with your favorite pair of low-rise denims are foolproof ways to lift your dampened spirits. Throw in a pretty handbag—by Isabelle Fiore, Jamin Puech or Manuel Canovas, perhaps?—and those trusty sneakers or sexy rain boots and you're off looking cheery—perfect to keep you feeling warm for that shopping trip or that late-night cuppa with friends. Now you have a perfect excuse to wear a hat, too.

But once in the shade, shed that designer jacket to show off your boldly printed long-sleeved tee underneath. You'll look just as good but no less warm. That's sensible layering: remember the air could get a bit nippy but no way wintry.

While keeping the rain from falling is an impossible option, keeping it from falling on your head is not, with Lulu Guinness or Anya Hindmarch designer umbrellas. Better yet, slip into a brightly colored waterproof raingear to keep the damper brought by the torrents at bay.

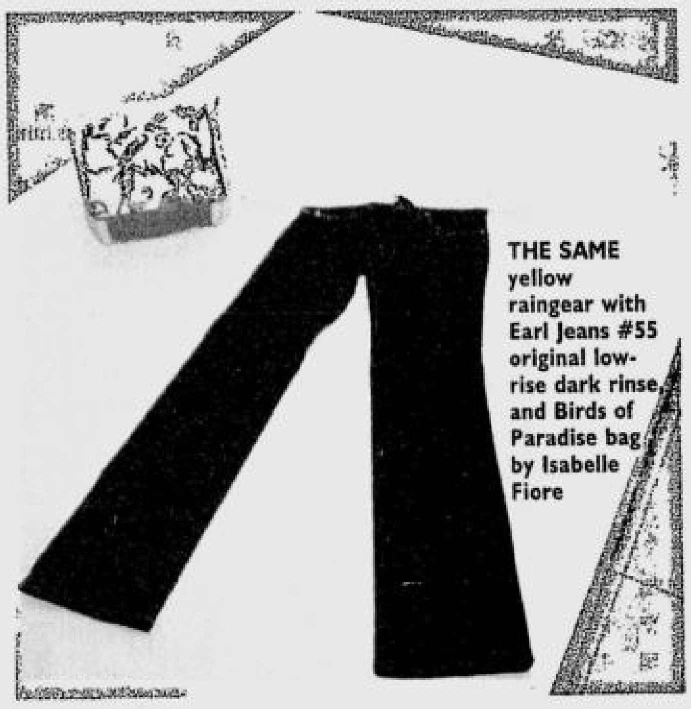
With the right togs, why sing "rain, rain go away"?

LIGHT blue jacket with matching travel sac and handbag, all by Courreges Paris

EARL Jeans #44 vintage extra low-rise

COU[illegible] pink [illegible] on "Sex and the City's" May episode) with fuchsia Custo Barcelona shirt and Love/Love Not clutch bag by Isabelle Fiore

YELLOW raingear by Courreges Paris

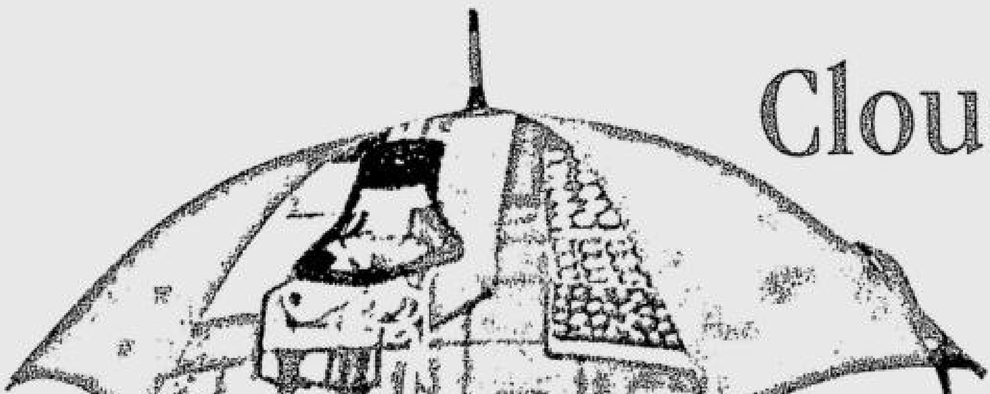


THE SAME yellow raingear with Earl Jeans #55 original low-rise dark rinse, and Birds of Paradise bag by Isabelle Fiore

ALL CLOTHES AND ACCESSORIES FROM WISH AT G/F MAKATI SHANGRI-LA SHOPPING ARCADE, AYALA AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

Cloudy with a chance of art

Umbrellas designed with reproductions of works by artists are in the weather forecast



Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos By Jim Punzalan

AN INDISPENSABLE accessory for the rainy season is the umbrella. In the coming wet and somber days, almost everybody will carry around this once-upon-a-time summer sunshade—in almost the same shades and mass-manufactured designs.

To stand out, check out Ayala Museum Shop at 3/F Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City. The store offers umbrellas with repro artworks by Fernando Amorsolo and Fernando Zobel. Since the shop orders only 30 pieces at a time, chances are less for one to run into somebody with the same design—especially since the umbrellas cost an eye-popping P500-P950 apiece.

"People are constantly on the lookout for one-of-a-kind gifts. They take one look at these umbrellas, notice how unique they are and buy them," Ellen Robles, Ayala Museum Shop manager, says.

The more expensive umbrellas undergo a special process called sublimation so the designs won't fade—come rain or shine. Customers have three choices: "Maiden with Palay Stalks" (blue), "Garden Lady" (yellow) and "Maiden beside Fruit Stand" (hot pink). Each umbrella is made of sturdy wood and printed with the artist's signature. "You won't find them anywhere else. These umbrellas are made especially for the museum," Robles says.

For those who want a conservative color, there's a gray umbrella peppered with Amorsolo-Zobel signatures. For those who find gray dull and boring, there's a dark pink umbrella with Zobel's signature. Robles says the "signature" umbrellas were printed using silkscreen process, but that doesn't necessarily mean they are of poorer quality. "These 'signature' umbrellas will weather hot and rainy days, too. But since their designs are not as complicated as the artworks, the silkscreen will do," she says.

Is male infidelity genetic?

From page C3

mothers while still expected to look, after all the childbirths and household obligations, like Assunta de Rossi if they want their husbands to keep their flies zipped when they step outside their house. Women who get too involved in the pursuit of careers and personal growth are both admired and despised. They are admired for their time management skills, juggling life outside the home and inside a dirty kitchen. At the same time, everything that goes wrong inside the house is blamed on their success in the competitive world outside.

Basically unfaithful

What is difficult to accept—or even just say out loud—is that men are basically unfaithful and there is nothing they can do about that. Somewhere in the Darwinian evolution process—between the simian stage and the moment men discovered they looked good in Hugo Boss suits—certain aspects of their existence remained in the baboon-in-the-jungle stage. One of them is the inability to be faithful to someone, despite verbal assurances.

It is commonly accepted that men can and will usually go astray because they are made or conditioned that way. Women are expected to swallow the bitter pill without protest and be resigned to the situation. They can smile and say, "As long as he comes home to me and he does not abandon his obligations with the children, okay *lang*." Yeah, right. Think like a dishrag and be treated like one.

The whole "*Magtiis ka, Misis*" syndrome, perpetuated by our culture and endlessly affirmed by all the cheesy television melodramas, can be so insulting. Cut the crap and the inutile excuse that the woman is sticking it out for the sake of the kids. Maybe it is about time that potential mothers-of-the-year realize that superheroic displays of martyrdom and passivity can be very, very psychologically and emotionally unhealthy for their offspring. Whether or not the marriage has been reduced to dramatic screaming bouts or simply a war colder than that between Russia and the United States in the '50s, kids know. They don't have to take all that mental torture—just for the sake of giving a semblance of a happy family going to Sunday Mass.

If it is an accepted fact that men will go astray, like ill-trained mongrels, then they should at least develop an art for their unfaithfulness. The situation would probably be not so intolerable if only the men could bluff their way through the mess they created with more expertise.

Amateur liars

It seems that the battle cry, "Deny and deny until you die!" becomes ridiculous when done so clumsily and with the grace and charm of a dud. From all accounts, philanderers tend to be amateur liars. Perhaps there is some obscure doctoral dissertation in one of the libraries on this planet that closely examines the gamut of ill-designed lies, excuses and defense mechanisms men employ to justify extended or unexplained physical absence. Men tend to write such lame and incoherent scripts, apparently assuming that their better halves possess the Intelligence Quotient of earthworms.

The wayward husband could not even use a little imagination in fabricating stories, anecdotes and scenarios to respond to questions like: "Where have you been?" or "What have you been doing?" The hubby of this friend gave profound Greta Garbo-ish excuses like wanting to be alone in order to find himself to escape the prying eyes of wife, children, relatives and snoops. Now anyone who is hitting 50 and still has to find the answer to the question "Who am I?" should be escorted to the main gate and all access to the family abode double-locked once it was determined he had left the premises. A husband who is such a lousy liar does not deserve any sacrament, if he is Christian, including Extreme Unction.

My friend said that she did not have to look for evidence. The truth simply "floated" her way, which is usually what happens. Unless the wife has had lobotomy, she would be able to catch signs pointing to a spouse's guilt. But, of course, despite the preponderance of evidence, the husband will never admit, confess or concede. Even if you smack him on the face with a Dolby Surround DVD showing amusing scenes of his infidelity, he will most likely turn the table on the wife, feigning hurt and outrage and even accusing her of paranoia.

Ah, but life goes on. Believe it or not, friends are happy for this soon-to-be-separated wife. She will bloom in a few months—most separated women do after they discover so much more about themselves when rid of a marriage that had all the charms of a toothache. She may miss him at times but the sense of loss will be eased by the thought of what she has gained.

One thing that should be made clear to men these days is that a separated woman is no longer considered an outcast, much less branded a failure.

But as a rule, even before a woman walks down the aisle, she should already be prepared for any eventuality. A marriage does not necessarily mean sticking it out forever with a man who will perhaps try to brainwash her into feeling helplessly dependent on him.

In marriage, women should hope for the best and expect the worst. She should be able and ready to hold things together even if the master of the house turns out to be a dog.

What's on at new personal care stores

EVER since it opened two new personal care stores at the Podium and SM Megamall, Watsons has brought to the Philippines the products it has been known for in Asia and Europe.

More and more Filipinas are having a lot of fun discovering its great assortment of beauty and personal care products. What's on at Watsons? Here are some great products to try and use again and again.

The new Watsons stores are located on the 2/L SM Megamall A and on the 2/L Podium, both in Ortigas Center.

WATSONS Henna Treatment Wax for deep hair conditioning. Also available are Watsons Honey and Avocado and Olive Oil treatment wax.

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4. Fill out raffle stub and submit to authorized Mercury Drug cashier. The raffle stub will be attached to your Mercury Drug tape receipt to validate your purchase
5. There will be five (5) winners of P 50,000.
6. Raffle draw will be held on August 30, 2002 at the Nestlé Center in 31 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati City.
7. Promo lasts until June 30, 2002. Participating branches include all Mercury Drug stores in Metro Manila and the Provinces of Cavite, Rizal, Bulacan (except Baliwag ; nd Laguna (except San Pablo and Rizal branch

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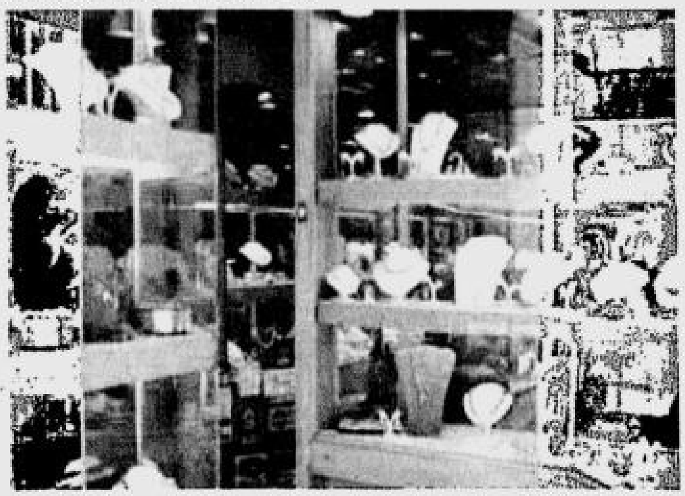
Rocks that rock

From page C1

the Tuscan region), Silvia Beghe designs the most eye-catching pieces using glass, clay and ceramics or a combination. The effects verge on the psychedelic as she combines colors and textures into usual shapes. Solid and mesh silver and copper serve as settings and even rubber tubing work as necklaces. Rings start at 40 euros and necklaces at 80 euros.

Bad hostess



PRECIOUS stones but not precious style: Gamani designs their own jewelry and reproduces period pieces.

Antiques are great, but again, nothing makes guests feel more uncomfortable than a hostess acting like her home was the Temple of Dendur at the Met. Saying "Don't lean on that. It's an antique" or "Don't put your glass there, it will spoil the finish" makes me wonder if I should just have paid an entrance fee for a private dinner. The joy of antiques lies not just in history but also in workmanship. How else can you appreciate workmanship if you can't touch the bloody thing?

Luce Brett in Paris has exactly the kind of merchandise that makes you want to browse and handle. The surprisingly friendly service (at least from the French) adds brownie retail points to the store's convenient location. She specializes in antique animal figures including old ivory ones. The eclectic selection of antique and vermeil jewelry, 19th century Viennese bronzes (including erotica), candelabra and other collectibles, are worth a peek if you're in the area.

Email the author at styledowager@hotmail.com

STEFANO FIORI
VIA SISTINA,22
ROME

GAMANI
VIA SISTINA,126
ROME 00187
PH: 06-47-43-567/06-47-41-973
WEBSITE: WWW.GAMANIGIOIELLI.COM
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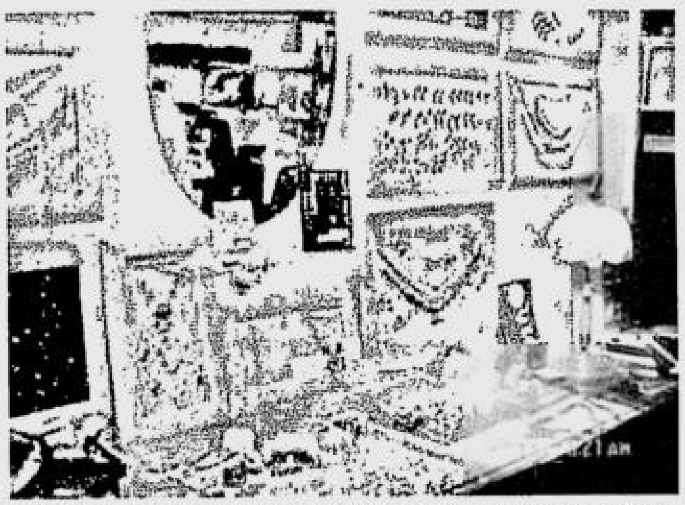

STEFANO Fiori in Rome uses semi-precious stones in entrance-making pieces.

POKE through antique jewelry and bric-a-brac at Luce Brett in Paris.

at the Ladies' Wear Department

Vestida M

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NUTRO Instant Oats helps make breakfast as easy, nutritious and delicious as you want. Did you know that oats actually removes cholesterol from your body? It's a rich source of soluble fiber that has been proven to reduce cholesterol. Oats act as tiny sponges that soak up cholesterol and carry it out of the body. Soluble fiber also helps reduce the risk of coronary heart disease. New studies by the American Heart Association show a significant decrease in the systolic and diastolic blood pressure with the regular intake of oats.

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New!

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Young dad Piolo

STORY ON PAGE D2

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Pops Fernandez

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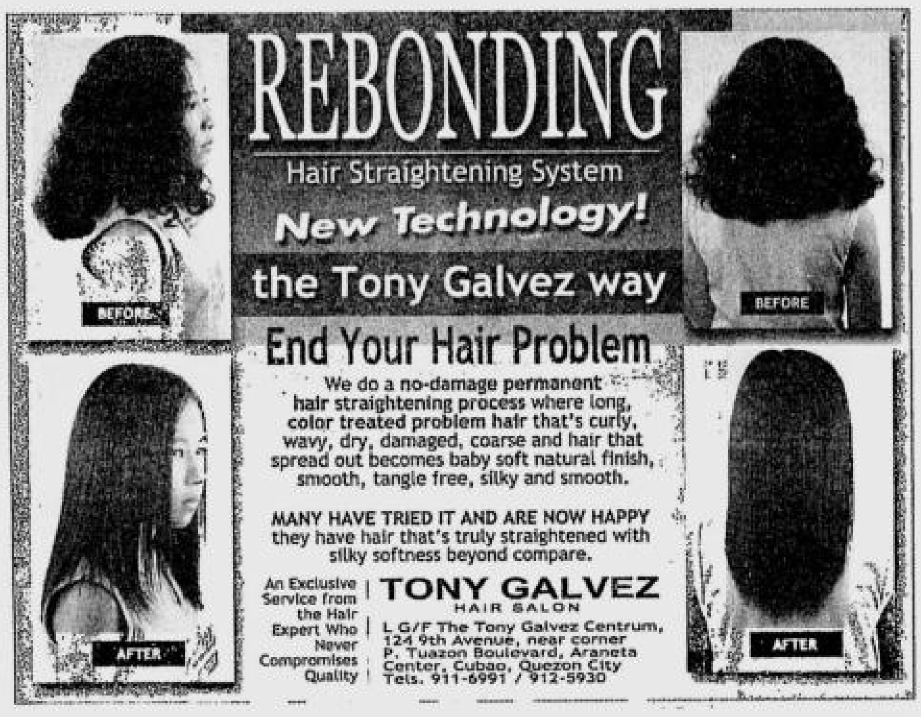

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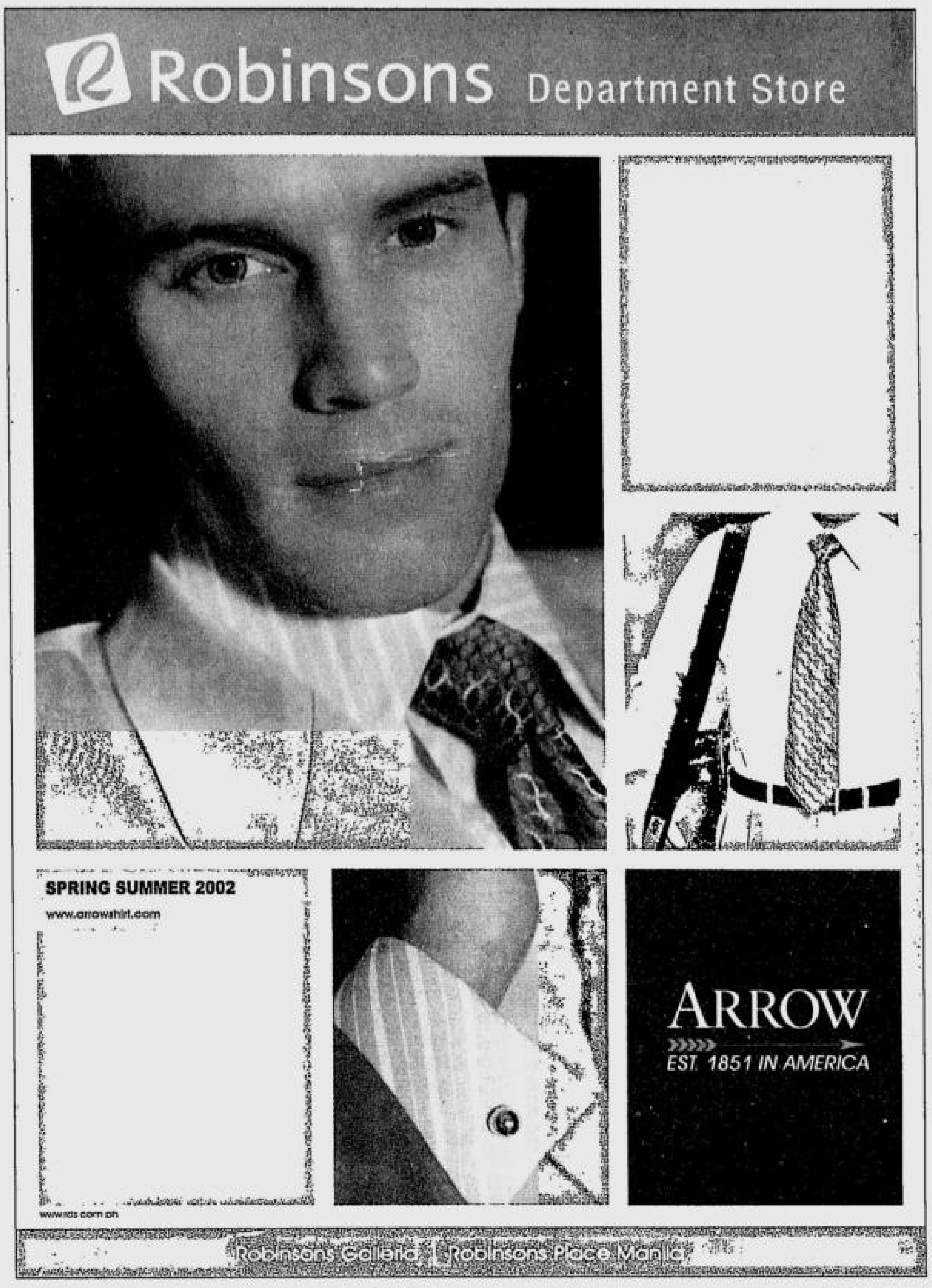

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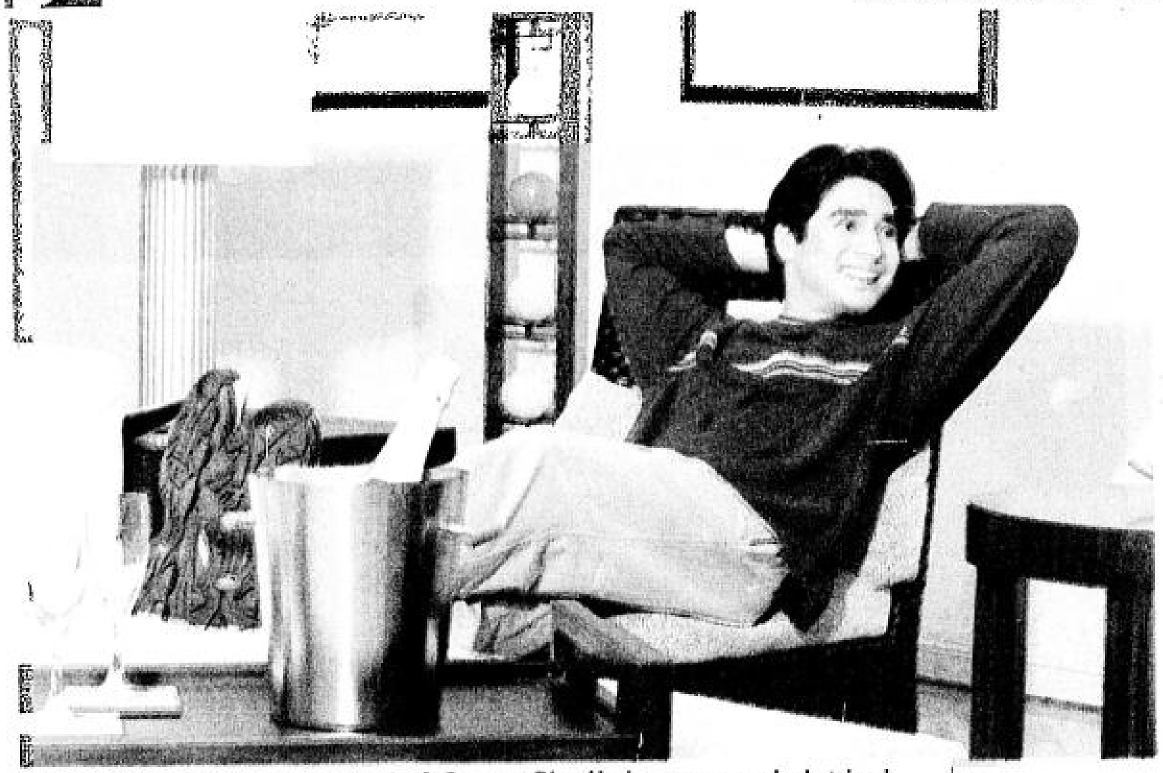
*In vivo testing. **Source: study under dermatological control conducted in Japan – 50 women – November 2001.



BOY NEXT DOOR. Piolo wears Marks & Spencer Blue Harbour crew-necked striped tunic in navy,flat front chinos in light putty and trainers in grey mix

Young dad Piolo

Text by Cathy Babao Guballa
Photos by Mike Alquinto

COLE CASUAL. Piolo in a multipurpose Kenneth Cole New York (KCNY) stretch woven shirt in universal over KCNY stretch pants in nickel. For a total laid-back look: a pair of KCNY Coastal Living brown slides

PIOLO Pascual's eyes are his strongest assets. Without having to say a word, they speak volumes. However, the charm certainly goes beyond what is seen. The actor has humility that is un-typical for someone of his status. He also has an admirable sense of responsibility toward work and family. Recently, he surprised everyone by openly talking about his love for his son that knows no bounds.

The 25-year-old movie and television star's appeal reaches far and wide. Wide-eyed and innocent 10-year-olds to 50 something grandmothers are drawn to his boyish yet sensuous charm. The older women want to either mother him or marry him off to their daughters. The younger ones, on the other hand, wish to bring him home to mother.

American dressing

Very articulate, Pascual's attitude toward clothes is no-nonsense, yet it is easy to see that he knows what he wants. "I like dressing up and I buy my own clothes," he says. "I do most of my shopping in Los Angeles when I go visit my mom and sisters." For casual wear he goes to GAP and for dressier clothes, Kenneth Cole is his choice. For shirts he is partial to pastels, particularly in the shade of blue. "If I like a certain item, I stock up on it," he smiles. He recalls buying 16 pairs of Gap jeans once. "Even when I went to Paris," he says, "I went to the Gap at Champs Elysee four times! My mom couldn't believe I would go to a Gap store in France of all places."

He goes for black shoes, preferably Kenneth Cole. He says he likes Kenneth Cole clothes because they fit well. During this shoot, he gets introduced to the youngish collection from Marks & Spencer.

His stint with the Hunks allows him to travel twice a year to the United States, something that he relishes because it gives him time to be with his family whom he misses a lot. "The downside is the trips make me put on weight," he adds. The Pascuals make their home in Monterey Park, which has a very large Chinese community. "We're the only Filipinos on the block," he grins.

Keeping fit

On his last trip, Piolo put on an extra 20 pounds, which he had to shed for his role in "Dekada '70," a Chito Roño film for the December Metro Manila Film Festival where he portrays the eldest of five sons of Vilma Santos and Christopher de Leon. "I play an NPA. It was a challenging role," he says. Losing the 20 pounds from his towering 5'11" frame seems to have been a piece of cake. "I haven't worked out since we got back from the US after Holy Week. Basically, I've dropped the rice. I eat less meat and take either a heavy breakfast or lunch and very rarely dinner. If I keep a late night and have to eat, it's either vegetables or noodles and crackers," he says.

Late nights notwithstanding, Piolo needs to get at least six to eight hours of sleep. "I never go beyond eight hours," he notes. The young actor hardly has any days off. "I work practically seven days a week," he shares. Tapings twice a week for his daily soap with screen partner Judy Ann Santos, "Sa Puso Ko Iingatan Ka," Sundays for the variety show ASAP and rehearsals for the Hunks take up most of his time. Add to that pictorials, interviews and commitments to promote his movies. He is currently in the movie "I Think I'm in Love" that is an entry to the Manila Film Festival and working on "Dekada '70" and "Nine Mornings," a Joey Reyes film with Donita Rose.

Iñigo's papa

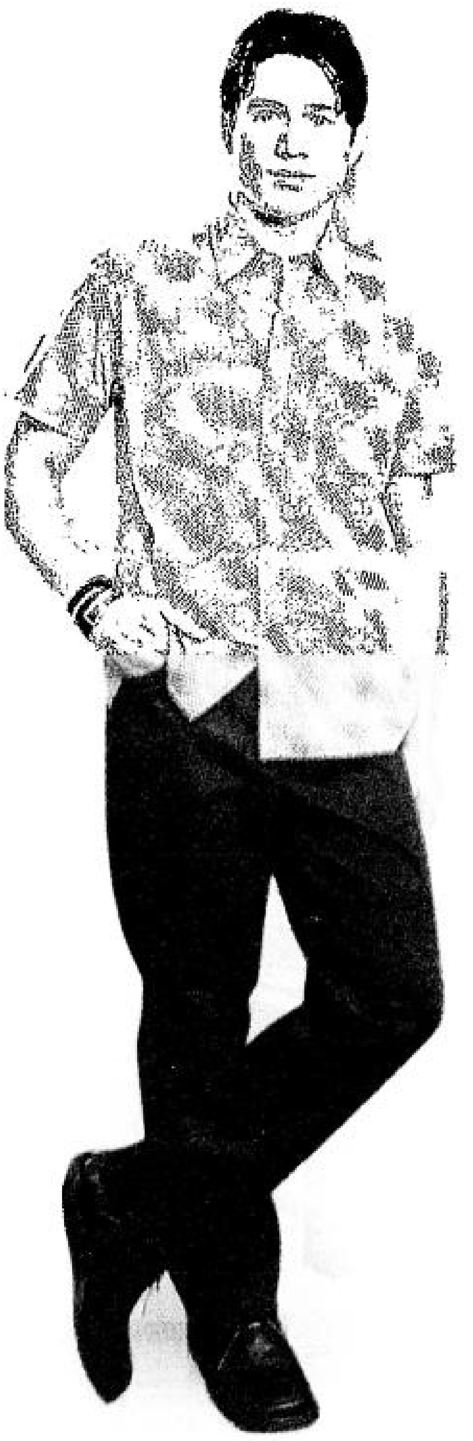
One person he will always find time for is 5-year old Iñigo, who seems to be the center of Piolo's world. The mere mention of the boy's name makes Dad's eyes light up. Piolo gets to see Iñigo once a week. They spend the time together, sometimes catching a movie at Rockwell, other times going bowling.

Naturally, there is a tendency to overindulge the boy, as in when he went on a shopping spree for Iñigo the last time he was in the US. "He's the reason I'm working so hard," Piolo admits. "I want him to have a good life and not have to go through the hardships and frustrations that I had to experience."

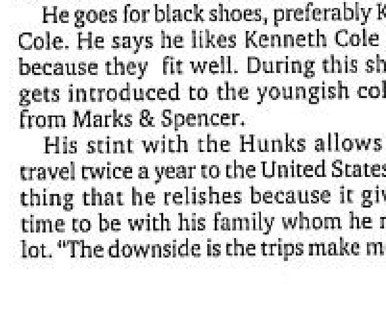
The thing that excites Piolo most nowadays is not his film with Joyce Jimenez or a possible award-winning performance in "Dekada '70."

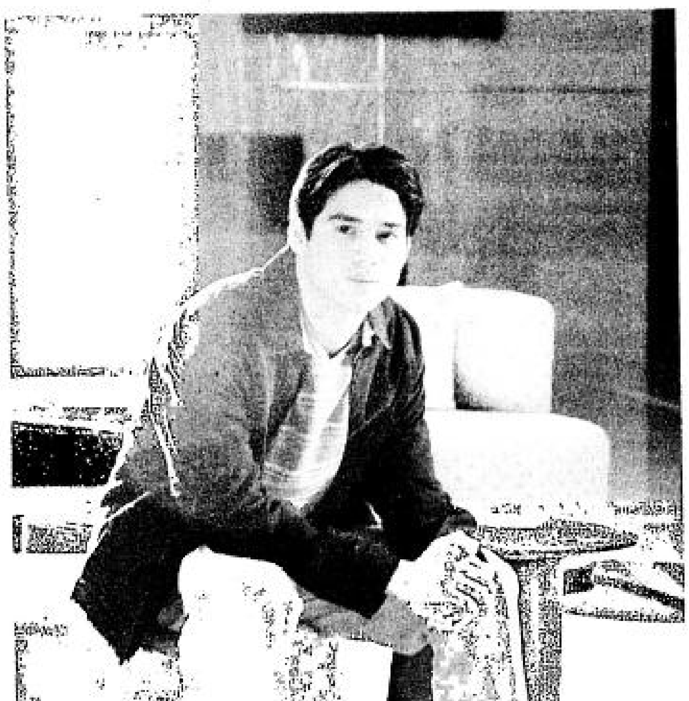
"I can't wait to take Iñigo to his first day of school," says Piolo, flashing a smile that lights up the entire room. Beyond the clothes, the languid eyes and the killer looks it's the sincerity and the daddy devotion that make him all the more irresistible.

Email the author at cbguballa@inquirer.com.ph



BRING HIM HOME TO MAMA. KCNY men's shirt in black and white, stretch black front pants, black leather shoes and leather bracelet





PENSIVE PAPA. Piolo wears a Blue Harbour Harrington jacket in navy over a BH open-collar, striped polo shirt in rust, BH flat front chinos in light putty, BH suede loafer in navy

DREAMY. KCNY woven men's shirt in quicksand over KCNY stretch black front pants

The matinee idol speaks about his son with such openness and candor it's so unlike a Hunk

CLOTHES & ACCESORIES:
KENNETH COLE AND MARKS & SPENCER
GROOMING: PATRICK ROSAS
STYLING: GEM PADILLA
LOCATION:
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SPECIAL THANKS TO ROSARY YSMAEL AND BOOTS MOYER

Kiddie fair provides one-stop shop for party needs

EDSA Shangri-La Hotel stages "Circus, Circus," its second annual kiddie fair on June 16, Sunday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m., at the Garden Ballroom.

"Circus, Circus" features a one-stop-shop of children's party trends and a wide variety of exhibits on party themes and decorations, amusement and recreation, apparel, books and magazines, cakes, health and beauty, invitations, photography, toys and novelties.

Fair proceeds will go to Migi's Corner Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to improving recreation facilities for children ingovernment hospitals and advocacy for the improvement of children's healthcare facilities.

At the Ladies' Shoes Department

Tread romantic in heeled slip-ons
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BRIDAL Walk
AT EASTWOOD CITY

Romance is in the air with not one, not two, but three wedding specials combining to make June a month of exceptional warmth and wonder... only at Eastwood City.

Bridal Trunk Show
June 15 at 7pm, City Walk Drive

Imagine walking down the aisle in the lovely wedding ensembles created by top female fashion mavens *Delby Bragais, Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Mia Gaerlan, Len Nepomuceno-Guiao, Dita Sandico-Ong, Carla Sibal, Michi Calica-Sotto, Letlet Veloso* and *Malu Veloso.*

The First Bridal Suppliers Outdoor Exhibit
June 14, 15 & 16, 4 pm - 12 mn, Eastwood City Walk Central Plaza

Check out booth after booth of wedding essentials—from bridal gowns to barongs/suits, video/photography services, floral arrangements, entertainment services, sounds/light's rental, limousine rental, invitation card printing, giveaways and bridal shoes.

Romance & Weddings Promo
June 1-30, Eastwood City Walk

Throw that *despedida de soltera* or bridal shower at any of City Walk's participating restaurants and make it an event to remember! Special themed packages available.

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Our bottle is so advanced, it brings feeding to a whole new level.

We just developed an advanced feeding bottle. Now we need your little suckers to try it. Introducing the Evenflo Elite.

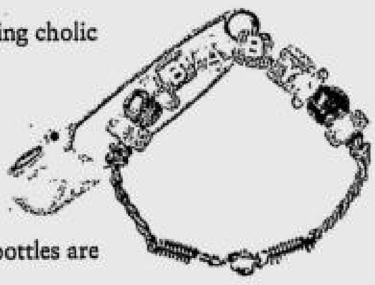
An ingenious innovation to complement the wonders of breastfeeding. While mothers can't always enjoy this special time with her child, pumping breast milk is the next best thing. So we created a bottle for a smooth transition, which can meet your child's needs.

Unlike other nipples, Evenflo Elite has a gentle sloping shape, allowing your child to latch on comfortably. What's more, the Evenflo Elite has a nipple that reacts to your child's suckling. Made from soft and flexible silicone, it adjusts to your child's pressure while feeding so it can give out just the right amount of liquid.

We even thought about your child's age. Our nipples are made with different flow capabilities. There's the "slow flow", the "medium flow" and the "fast flow". It's an innovation that gives the right flow based on your child's age and feeding needs. And what about the nipple cover? Its unique shape features an inner wall that creates a barrier to help keep the nipple clean at all times. Plus, our nipple cover comes with ventilation holes that circulates air evenly.

Cholic problems will likewise be a thing of the past. Directly under the nipple are Micro Air Vents which keep air from your child's tummy. These vents allow air to return to the bottle preventing nipple collapse and greatly reducing cholic pains. Not to mention sleepless hours.

And while other bottles are stuck with an upright design, Evenflo Elite's unusual form serves a significant purpose. Its pediatric angled bottle helps keep the nipple filled to reduce air intake and promotes semi-upright feeding. This lessens the chances of inner ear infection. Plus, its wide opening and ergonomic shape makes for easy handling and cleaning. This obsession with detail and innovation drives us to bring feeding to a whole new level. Because, just like your child, we are also suckers for the best.



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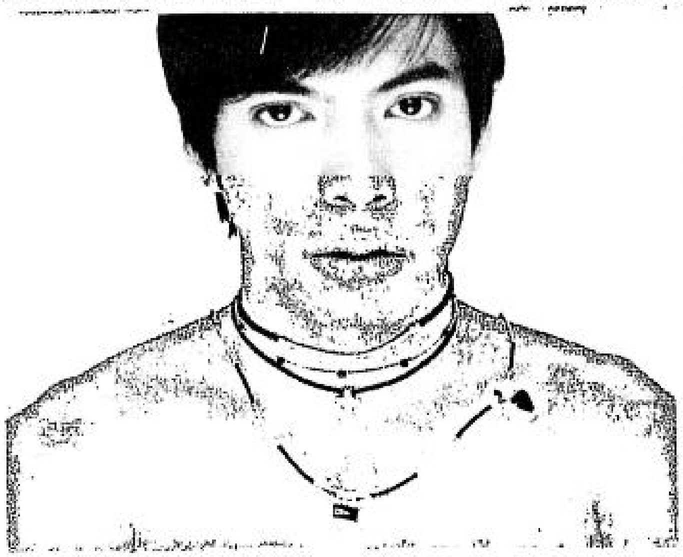
ANNIVERSARY BLOWOUT

The Body Shop customers are in for a treat this June. In line with its anniversary celebration, The Body Shop is giving a 25-percent discount on its featured product of the day (minimum purchase of two featured products). The Body Shop bestsellers include Vitamin E Moisture Cream, Vitamin E Flourishing Night Cream, Vitamin E Eye Gel and Vitamin E Lip Care; Tea Tree Oil, Tea Tree Facial Wash, Tea Tree Facial Scrub and Tea Tree Freshener; Peppermint Foot Scrub and Peppermint Foot Soak; Moonflower EDT and Moonflower Body Spray; Olive Dry Oil Mist, Olive Body Scrub and Olive Body Butter; Africa Spa Salt Scrub and Africa Spa Body Balm.



BLACK Onyx pendants in gypsy setting on silver, and leather assorted necklaces.

The good silver

SILVERWORKS has taken its non-traditional image to a new level by now carrying accessories for men. Yes, sterling silver is the preferred accessory of today's young men.

Silverworks' collection range from the traditional and simple male bracelets to chunky "rapper-like" chains, oversized pendants, wild "biker-like" rings and bracelets to funky knuckle rings and body jewelry like barbells for those guys with more than just pierced ears.

Silverworks is in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Star Mills Pampanga and in leading malls.

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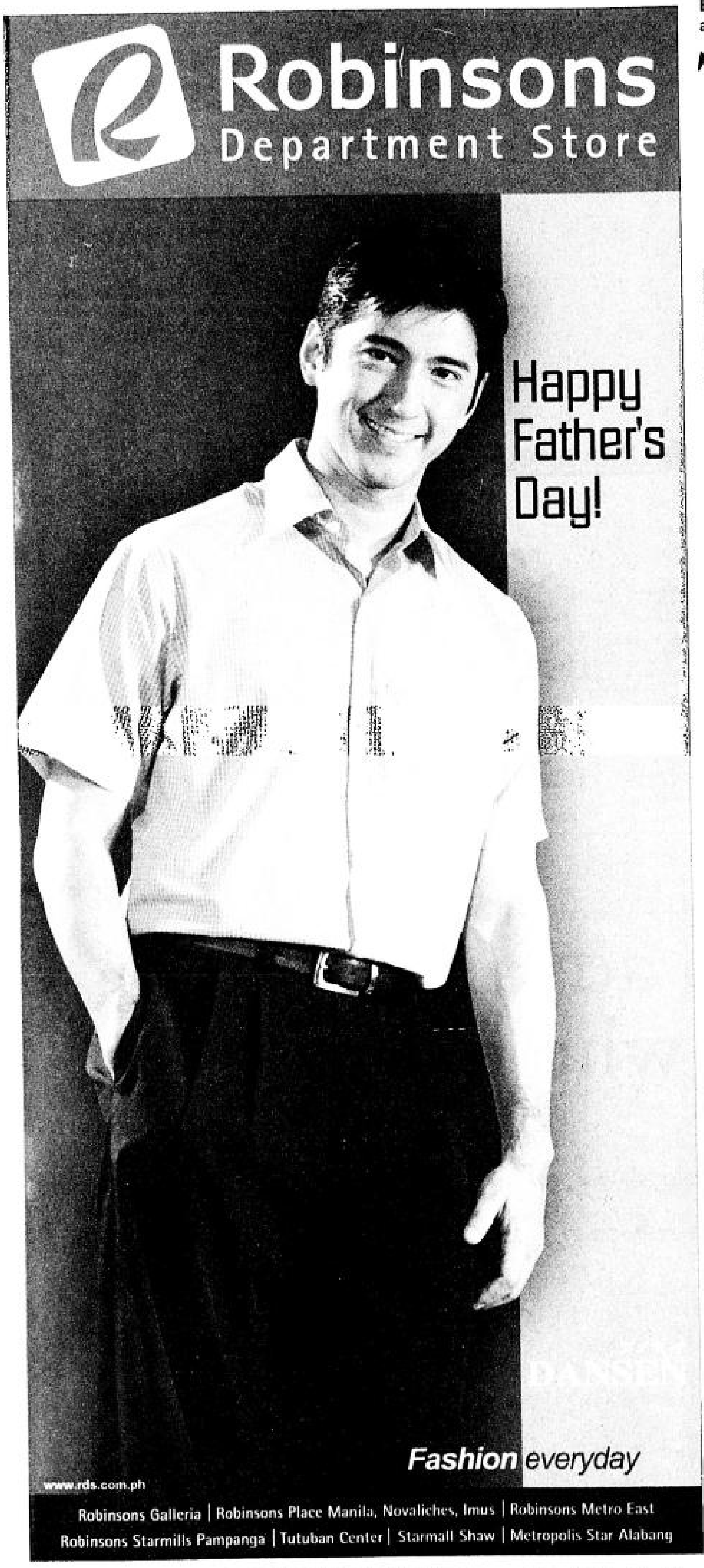

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Spend fun weekends at the malls

GOINGS ON

THE ROBINSONS Malls, in cooperation with Nestle Ice Cream, have recently launched "Family Fun Weekends 4," a series of workshops held at Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Place Imus, Robinsons Metro East and Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños.

These series involve arts and home crafts workshops for mommies and kids. Held every weekend of June, "Family Fun Weekends 4" is composed of four workshop modules. At Robinsons Place Novaliches and Robinsons Metro East, kids are invited to a puppet show, sketching/face painting, and tie-dying. Mommies' workshops are held at Robinsons Place Imus and Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños. Scheduled activities and topics are: skinless and native *longganisa*-making, chicken and pork *tocino*-making, quick cured ham-making, ceramic painting, novelty souvenirs and stuff toy-making.

Ongoing at Robinsons Place Imus is the screening of participants for the forthcoming Robinsons Place-Nestle Ice Cream Teen Dance Contest. Semifinals will be held on June 22 at 4 p.m., while the grand finals is on June 29 at 4 p.m. Application forms are available at the Mall's information Counter. Call 632-7672 or 633-7641-90 locals 175 or 176.

BAZAAR. A Series of bazaars dubbed "2002 Bazaar Bonanza" will be held Sundays on June 16, July 21 and Aug. 18, at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish, Forbes Park, Makati City. Sponsored by the Caruso Enterprises, the bazaars will be open to the public, 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

Assorted products to be on sale are various foods such as roast calf, various kinds of hotdogs, rice mix, sandwiches, special *lechon*, assorted noodles, breads; local and imported furniture; imported and locally made RTW, handicrafts, plants, flowers and garden accessories; health and beauty products, electronics, and antiques. Participants include Genesis Flowers, Bebeth Flowers, Anne Fernandez, Fuel Food Products, Rated V RTW, and Serapion S. Metilla of Mett's Plant Art. Call 373-5009.

BAZAAR. Celebrate Father's Day on June 15 and 16 at the NBC tent with "I Love Dad" bazaar. Shower the most important man in your life with gifts such as designer clothes, hobby equipment, leather good and fine wine—all at rock-bottom prices.

Aside from the father's day treats, the bazaar also has items for every member of the family who will shop with Dad on this special day. Available on sale are linens, home accessories, educational toys for children, export-overrun garments and many more. This weekend's bazaar also has a gourmet spread for shoppers who wish to stock up on homemade goodies.

Door prizes await lucky shoppers. "I Love Dad" bazaar accepts local and international credit cards. A mobile ATM machine is also installed outside the NBC for shoppers who need extra cash.

Karl Edward International holds themed bazaars at the second week of every month, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Free parking for all shoppers.

SEMINAR. The Association of Booksellers for the Academe and the Professions (Abap), together with the Center for Human Research and Development Foundation Inc., will hold the following seminar-workshops for teachers: "Methods and Approaches in Teaching Interactive Reading-Responding to and Writing About Philippine Literature (July 15-16); "The Ausubelian, Reggio Emilia, Developmental-Interaction and Other Approaches to Pre-School Education" (July 17-18); "Enhancing Higher Order, Thinking Skills Through Innovative Teaching Strategies and Assessment in Science" (July 18-19); and "How to Make the Teaching and Learning of History More Interesting." (July 19-20). The seminars will be held at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, Quezon City.

Abap will also hold a two-day seminar-workshop on "The Practice of Accreditation: Building New Vision for Libraries in the New Millennium," July 16-17 at the Benitez Alumni Center, UP Diliman, Quezon City. The seminars will be part of the 6th Philippine Academic Book Fair organized by the Abap and will be held on July.15-19 at the UP Bahay ng Alumni, Diliman, Quezon City. Call 927-9858, (0917)248-3733, (0917)384-0292 or fax 435-5727.

FESTIVAL. Daet, Camarines Norte, holds the Grand Pinyasan Festival 2002 on June 15-24. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to formally open the festival tomorrow with a surfing tournament at Bagasbas beach.

The Festival's highlight is a street-dancing parade on June 23, showcasing performers in pineapple-

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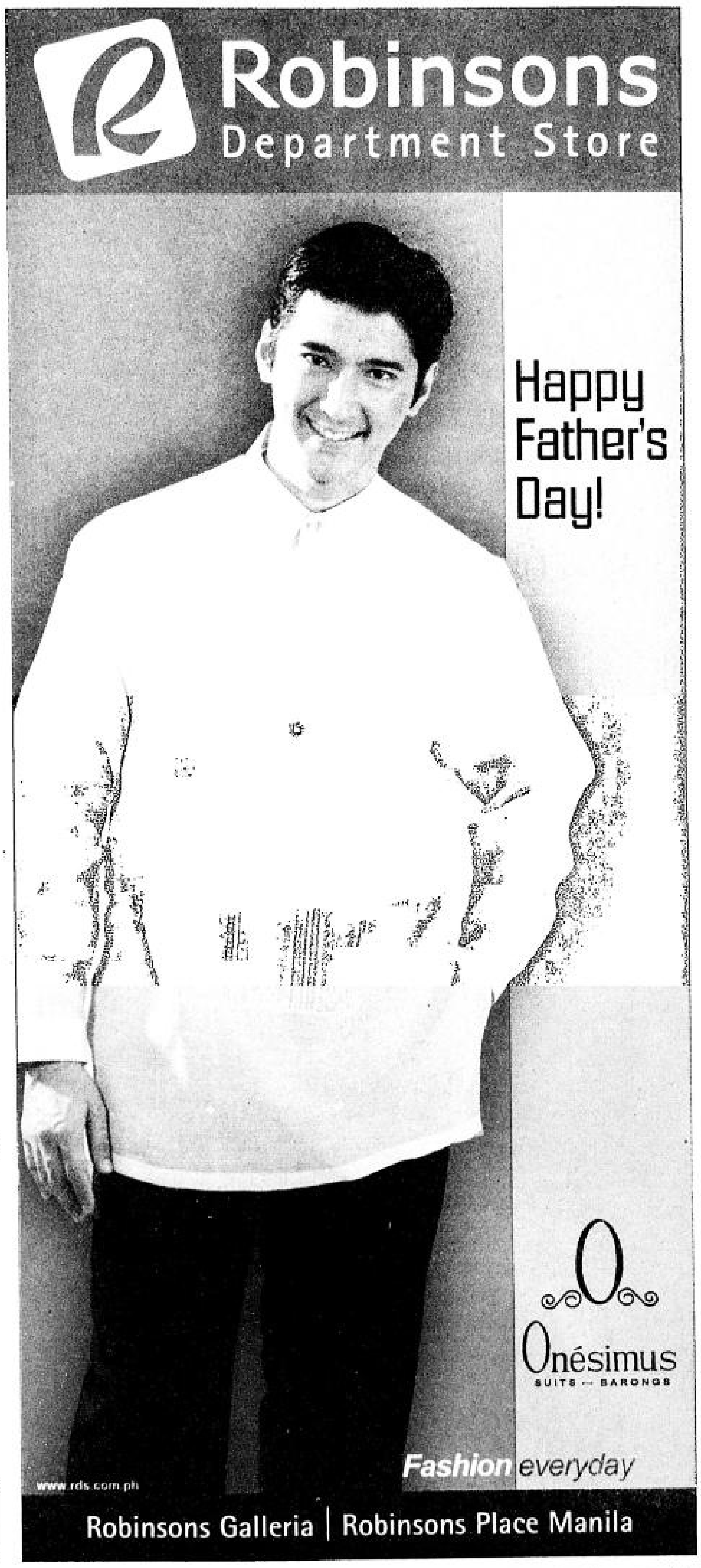
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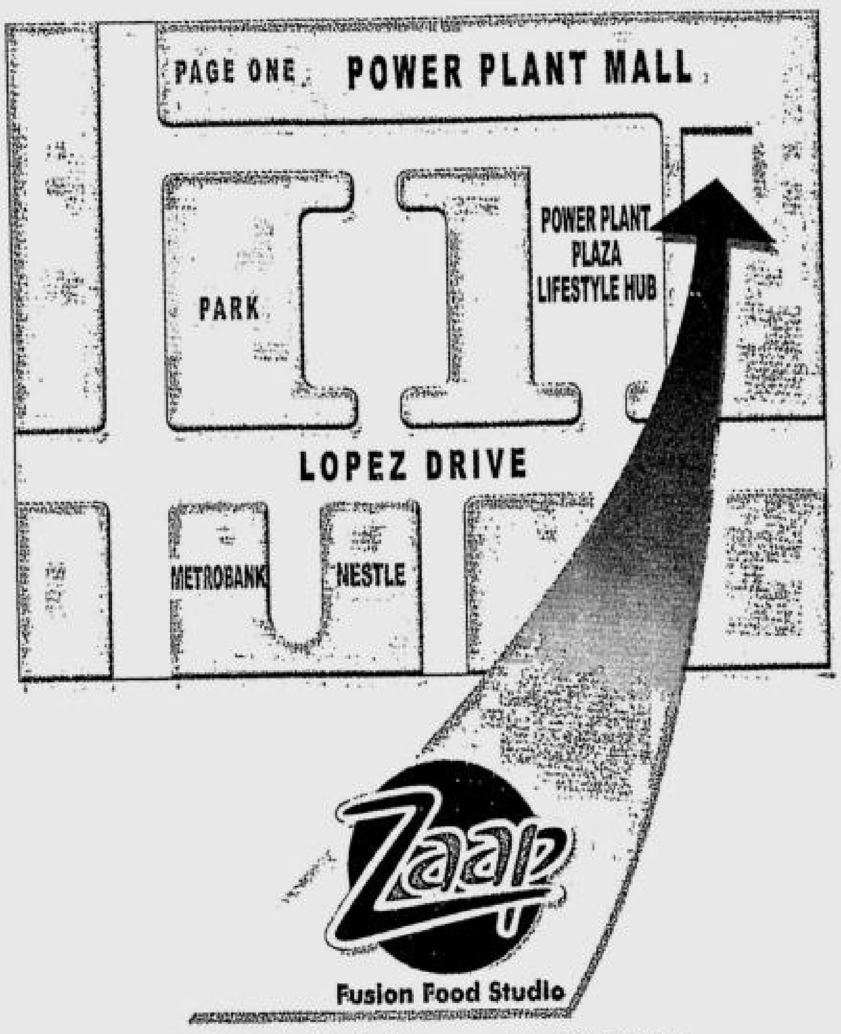

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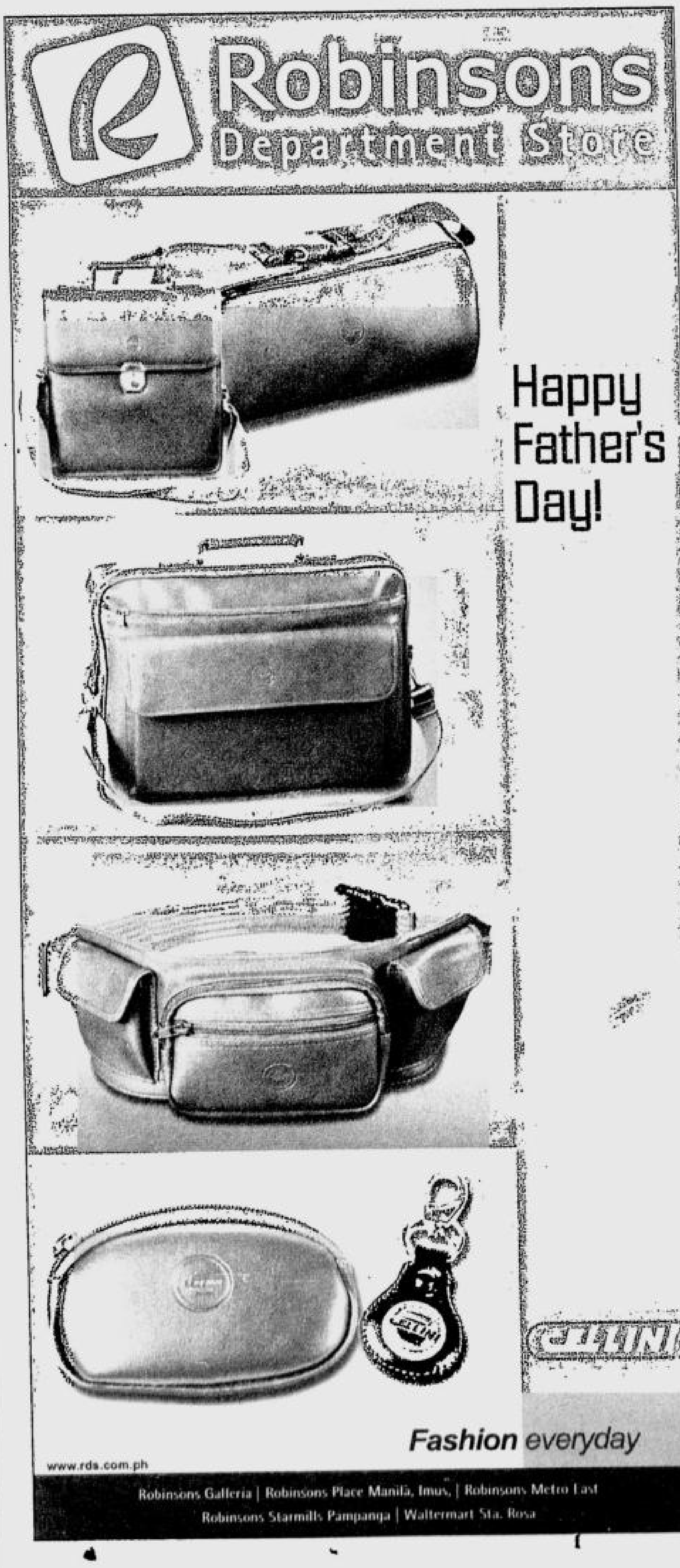

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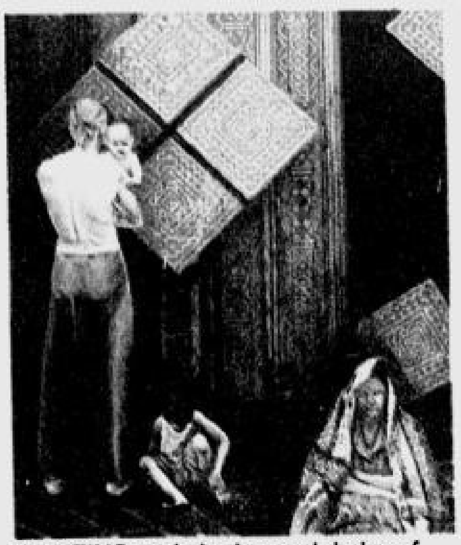
Robinsons Starmills Pampanga | Waltermart Sta. Rosa

Faces of fatherhood

FR. Dominador Besares will mount a one-man exhibit dubbed "Honor Thy Father" on June 30 at the Victoria Gallery, Hall 7, Philtrade Center, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. In this exhibit, Father Besares depicts different faces and phases of fatherhood. Part of the proceeds of the exhibit will be donated to the Kalinga Day Care Center in Barangay Parang, Marikina City. Call 573-4696 or (0917) 538-9207.



PAINTING set in background design of the Yakan tribe's clothing and handicraft.

Time out with Daddy

FAMILY Reader (FR) honors all fathers with a series of SM Mall events dubbed "Time Out with Dad."

On June 16, Christine Jacob hosts a musical show featuring Dessa and Bituin at SM Megamall. There will be a Dockers fashion presentation and a hunt for FR's Super Dad of the Hour, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Interactive booths will be open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Insular Life will give out forms for its Junior Lamp Life Anticipated Mutual Plan. Ford offers its Freedom Festival promo. Mary Kay will give tips on skin and facial care, as well as samples of its products. Kids are in for exciting gimmicks while White King holds "Dress up your hotcake" cooking demo. Milo will have a dad-and- kid basketball shoot-out.

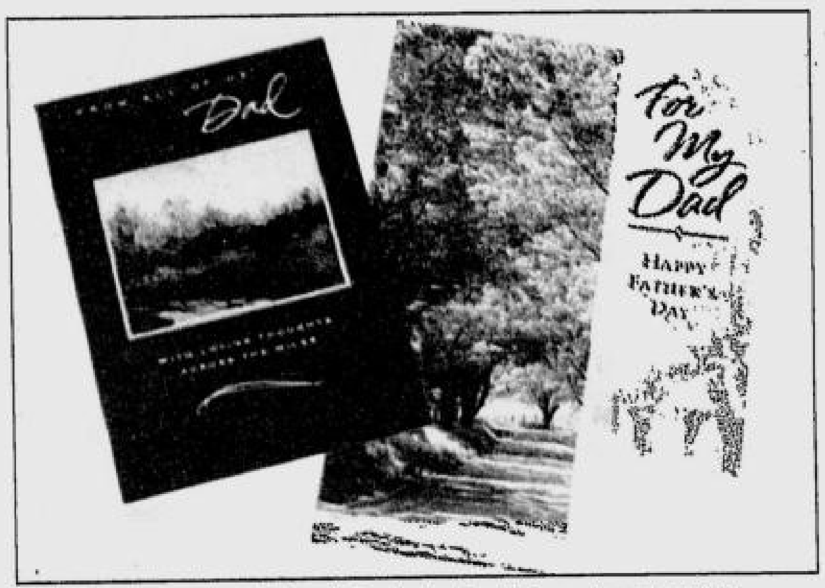
Call 631-2859 or 633-4785.

Father's Day at the malls

CELEBRATE Father's Day at Robinsons Malls (Galleria, Manila, Imus, Novaliches, Los Baños, Metro East and Pampanga) today until June 16.

Get a chance to buy a "fruit-bearing tree" for only P99 for every minimum purchase of P100. Potted cacti plants are also available, with prices ranging from P35-P80. On June 16, a group of caricature illustrators from UP College of Fine Arts will do on-the-spot caricatures of Dad for only P100 upon presentation of a single receipt of P300 and a photo of Dad.

Call 632-7672 or 633-7641 to -90, local 175 or 176.



HALLMARK Cards says Father's Day is the fourth largest card-sending occasion with more than 84 million cards expected to be given this year in the United States alone. About half of all Father's Day cards are for dads and nearly a fifth are for husbands. Hallmark Cards are available at all National Bookstore branches nationwide.

The quickest way to Pop's heart is still through his stomach

CRAVINGS offers a Healthy Dad's Menu that includes unlimited trips to the Soup and Salad Bar, a main dish of Grilled Pork Back Chop with trimmed fat served with Red Rice and Steamed Vegetables, and a perfect ending of Caramel Apple Cheesecake. Every purchase of the special menu June 14-16 wins Dad a free gift item from Smart Money. Dads dining in with their families also get free gifts from Emerald Headways Distributors Inc. for a minimum purchase of P500. Until June 16, visit any Cravings Restaurant, Cravings Cafe or Coffee Beanery to fill out a "Top 10 Things I Love About My Dad" raffle form.

ALBA Restaurante is giving fathers a special treat—free gift certificates for its lunch buffet. The lunch buffet is available Monday to Sunday starting at 11:30 a.m. Alba Restaurante has branches on Tomas Morato corner Scout Lozano, QC, and at 38 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati City. Call 925-1912 and 411-7052 (QC) or 896-6950 to -51 and 890-4372 (Makati).

JADE Garden Chinese Restaurant offers a special set menu for four and 10 persons. All dads get extra "lovely heart" mango *sago* for dessert.

For an added treat, Jade Garden is giving one free bottle of French wine for every half order of its barbecued suckling pig (Cantonese style) and two free bottles of French wine for one whole order of the same. Diners are advised to order a day in advance. This offer is for lunch and dinner on June 15-21.

Jade Garden is at Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 892-2319/2636).

KIMPURA treats the Man of the House with a hearty meal that's guaranteed to make him smile. Dad can feast on fresh seafood, the finest meats and garden fresh vegetables. Kimpura has two locations: Greenhills Shopping Center, San Juan (tel. 721-8816/69) and 2/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 893-2307 or 892-4456).

PEKING Garden is offering its special "Dad's the One" set menu for 10 persons until Sunday. Families will enjoy northern Chinese cuisine in an imperial China setting. An affiliate of Peking Garden Hong Kong, it is on the 2/L Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City (tel. 817-9066/67).

OUTBACK Restaurant gives Dad the bonzer treat he truly deserves with The Melbourne, a 20-oz porterhouse. Every order will be served with a glass of Somerton Miranda Shiraz Cabernet. Outback also offers a selection of Aussie-tizers, seafood, pasta, chops and chicken entrées and delicious desserts. Also available is the Down Under Dindin menu, which includes The Outback Special and is available for only P345. Take Dad to Outback Restaurant branches at Glorietta, Makati City; Libis, QC; and Alabang Town Center.

AT ITALIANNI'S, Dad is sure to love a meal of Italian-American specialties. Dad also gets a whole loaf of Tuscan bread free when he dines at the restaurant on Father's Day. He gets to enjoy the same dishes plus a whole loaf of focaccia bread—Italianni's popular Italian bread that's ideal for any meal—free at the Bakery and Cafe. Italianni's Restaurant is on the G/F Greenbelt 2, Makati City (tel. 728-0291) while Italianni's Bakery & Cafe has branches on the 2/F Glorietta 4, Makati City (tel. 757-1324) and Alabang Town Center (tel. 772-3320/85).

T.G.I.FRIDAY'S lets Dad enjoy its wide selection of American-style dishes by giving him P250 worth of certificates that he can use on his next visit.

Friday's restaurants are at Glorietta, Robinsons Place Manila, Hotel Rembrandt in QC, Alabang Town Center and Sta. Lucia East.

BURGOO offers house specialty dads will surely enjoy. They can also choose from a wide array of salads, pizzas and pastas and other appetizing treats. Plus, Burgoo has also prepared a special menu. For every order of Burgoo's drinks, dads will get a free mug or a cap courtesy of Burgoo and Equal Sweetener.

Burgoo branches are at No. 310 Tomas Extension, South Triangle, Diliman, QC; 3/L Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Center, Makati City; and 2/L The Podium, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City. Call 927-7424, 898-1815 or 687-5254.

CAFÉ All Day is giving out free Lipton iced tea to dads when they order any of the All-Day Specials. Cafe All Day is located on the 2/L Tequila Joe's El Pueblo.

AT TEQUILA Joe's, fathers can enjoy Coca-Cola on the house if they order any of TJ's famous sandwiches. TJ's is at El Pueblo, Glorietta 4 and Alabang Town Center.

CALIFORNIA Pizza Kitchen also makes Father's Day special. Free gifts await daddies with no minimum purchase required. CPK is at the Shangri-La Mall, Glorietta 3 and Alabang Town Center.

NATIONAL Sports Grill, located on the 3/L Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City, offers special treats like NSG gift certificates, free gifts from Lipton, Sustagen Premium, Orient Day Spa, Fitness First, Fortant Wine and Citibank for dads.

On June 16, NSG will also hold the finals of the Great Family Billiards Tournament, which started on Father's Day last year. All monthly champions and other guests will compete for great prizes. Call 752-5431.

AT HOTEL Inter-Continental Manila, win fabulous gifts for Dad when you take him to lunch or dinner at Cafe Jeepney or Prince Albert Rotisserie. Gift packs and other treats from Hugo Boss, Evian, San Miguel Beer, Rustan's, Pepsi, Adidas, Corona Beer, Claiborne for Men, Ideal Vision, Les Lunettes de Paris, Holiday Inn Manila, Clark Hatch Fitness Center, Music One and Tower Records' Caliraya Recreation Center, La Isabela Tabacalera, Kaffee Aromatherapy and Hair Treatment Salon, Scanasia, FHM, Crabtree & Evelyn will be given away. Then bring Dad to Le Boulevardier and watch live World Cup football games together on widescreen TV at 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. for only P350 per person, consumable on drinks. Call 815-9711 local 261-263.

HEARTY offerings for fathers and their families at Kimpura's Teppanyaki section

Spend fun weekends at the malls

From page D5

Inspired costumes. The parade will also include contingents from other Bicol provinces performing their own street dances, such as the Rodeo of Masbate, the Pantomina of Sorsogon, the Tinagba of Iriga City, the Ibalong of Legazpi City and the Tabak of Tabaco City.

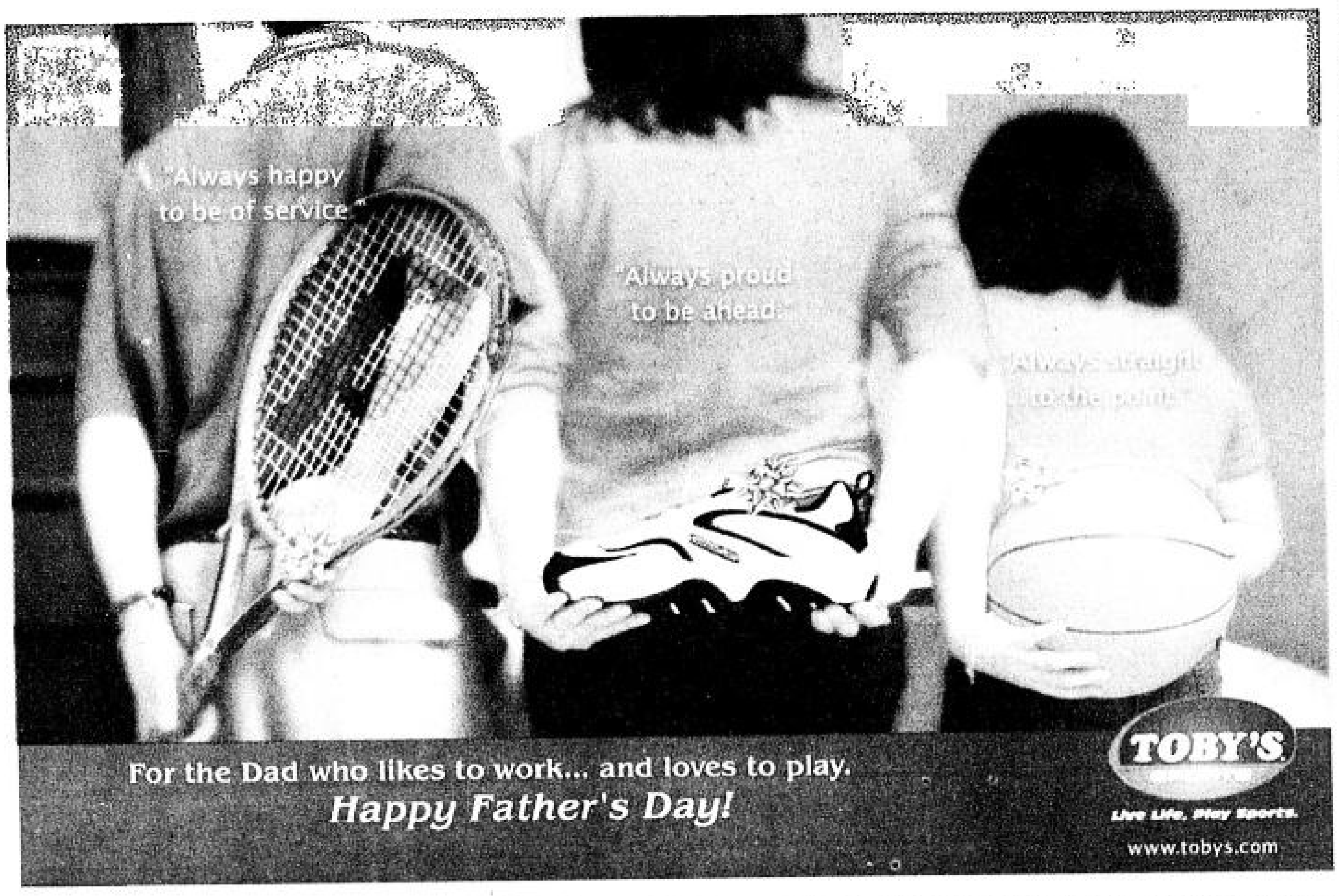
Various specials, sporting and cultural events are lined up to spice up the weeklong festival, which culminates on June 24 with the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

WORKSHOP. Join the hands-on workshop "Shapes: Materials and Procedure on Mold Making," on June 18-19, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Sinag Arts Studio. Facilitating is Rene Cubar, a craftsman who excels in molding materials, woodcraft, and metal craft. Materials to be used are silicon, plaster of paris and resin. These materials are used for making lamps, figurines, molding-base to make images like candles and soap (for livelihood projects) or for props, costumes and set-details (for theater work). The fee is P2,000, inclusive of molding materials.

The Sinag Arts studio is located at 664 San Ignacio St., Mandaluyong City. Call 531-3491, fax 531-9524, or e-mail sinag@fastmail.i-next.net

CONCERT. "The Best of Yamaha," this week's episode of Concert Nights at the Old Walls, tomorrow, 6 p.m. at the Patio of Casa Manila, Gen. Luna Street, Intramuros (across San Agustin Church). Eric Dimson, concert organist/ pianist and dean of the Yamaha School of Music, along with award winning artists Allaine Torregoza, Jocelyn Tan, Charlie Rancudo, and Merland Mariano, head the concert.

The program includes well-loved orchestral pieces such as Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" and "Symphony No. 25," Robert Schumann's "Aufschwung," Yitzak Albeniz's "Leyenda," Peter Ilych Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet" and Johann Christian Bach's "Sinfonia in D Major." Admission is free. Call 527-2192 local 603.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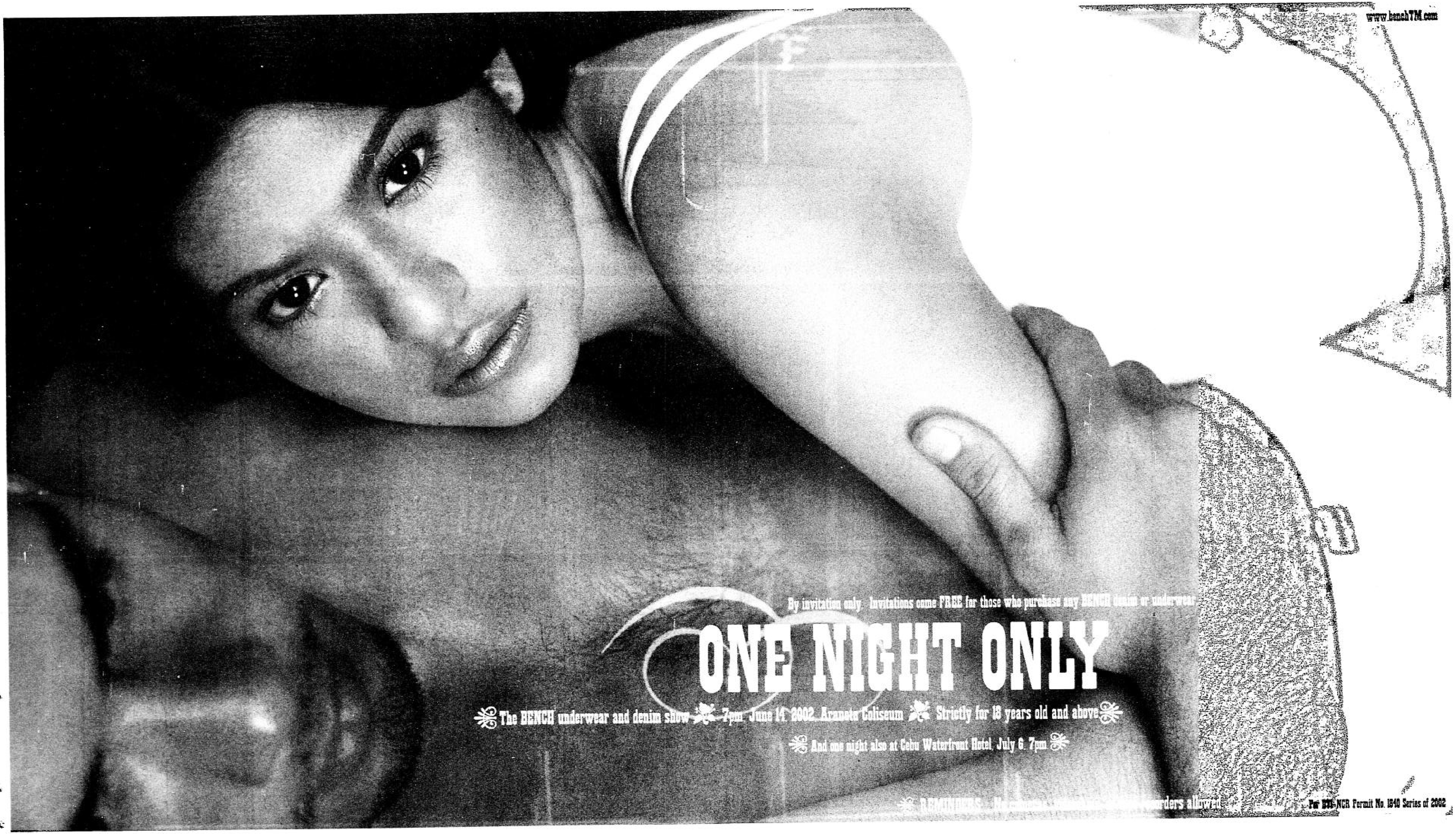
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And one night also at Cebu Waterfront Hotel, July 6. 7pm
REMINDERS: [illegible] recorders allowed
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Modeling and show biz are today's career preferences

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

WHILE watching his friends wall-climb at Play Underground last Sunday, my son hit upon a bright idea: "Ma, Kris here says you should use BJ as model for Chalk," he told me, beaming at his friend from Assumption. My son nodded in the direction of his other friend who had just gotten down from the wall—a guy in his 20s, boyish, potentially a hunk.

"Kris said BJ even looks better than some models in your mag," my son went on, obviously bent on not leaving our campus magazine alone.

"Okay," I said. I wanted not only to play the encouraging mom, but also, to salvage whatever credibility I had left when it came to assessing the modeling-show biz potential of my sons' friends.

Brief history: More than a year ago, my younger son was hanging out with a mestizo, Redmond, who, my son said, would make it to ABS-CBN Star Circle. Redmond would sometimes sleep over in the house until after a time, he stopped coming altogether. My son said Redmond was keeping a busy schedule because he was dead serious in landing show biz. My son was sure he'd be a star. Don't think so, I said, I never heard that name in ABS, where good-looking boys are a dime a dozen. Don't think Redmond stood a chance, I told him.

Wrong. Some time later, looking at our StarStudio magazine cover, I took a big gulp. There was Redmond. Without the ample bangs I was used to seeing but it was him all

MODELING/ p.E7

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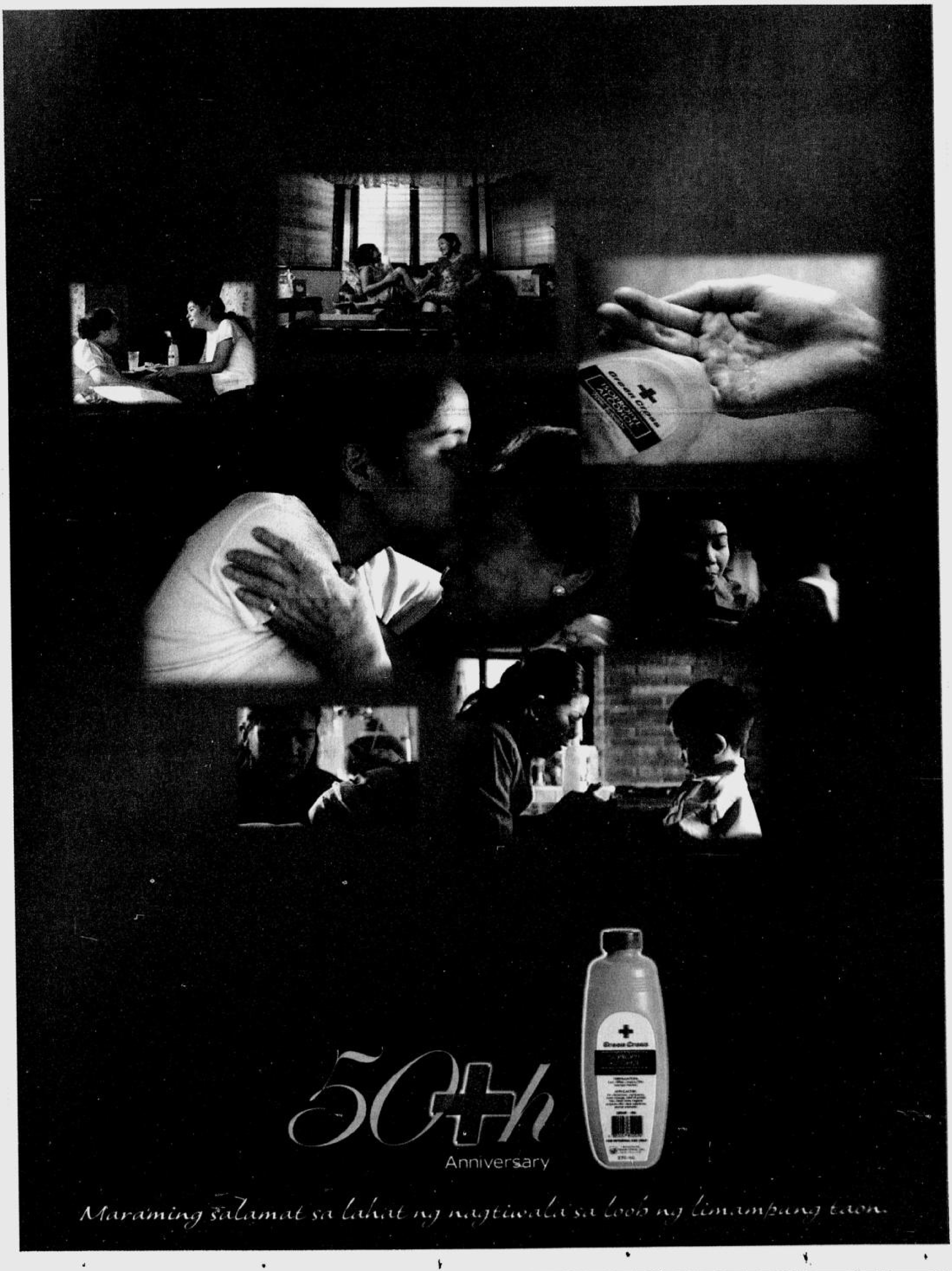
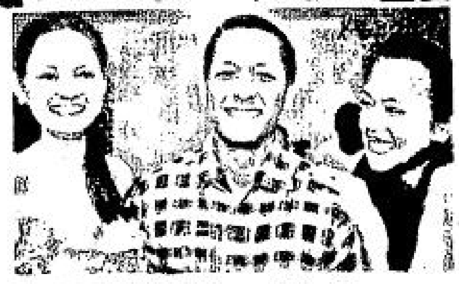

Green Cross
50th Anniversary
Maraming salamat sa lahat ng nagtiwala sa loob ng limampung taon.

Scents and sensibilities

MIA Nolasco-Cuenco of Luxasia, Marilen Tantoco-Valbuena of Rustan's and Rico Tantoco, Rustan's managing director



CHRISTINE del Gallego of Southern Retail, architect Gil Coscuella and interior designer Ina Chiongbian

RAYA Mananquil for Star fragrance

Text by Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Joan Bondoc

THE SENSE of smell is the most important, even the most erotic, of human senses. The perfumes we choose are a symbol of our personality and mood, our way to attract and send out our personal messages to the world.

At the recent launch of BCBGirls Max Azria fragrance collection of Nature, Star, Metro and Sexy at Rustan's Makati, fragrance was compared to fashion. A 20-minute show, which featured Joey Mead, Raya Mananquil, Gayle Ong, Bianca Vallero, Valerie de los Santos and Georgette Nepomuceno, emphasized that fragrance is like a wardrobe that changes with one's moods. A case of scent matching the sensibility.

"BCBG's four variants fit every mood and occasion everyday. Each fragrance encourages individuality. The BCBGirls are confident, carefree and feminine. They love being girls, young at heart and continually evolving," says Vicky Marchadesch, brand manager of Luxasia, Inc.

Nature is inspired by the fresh notes of tangerine, green aquatic accord, bergamot, freesia, rose, lily of the valley, musks, heliotrope, sandalwood and amber. Each fragrance accessory soothes the soul while providing a calming sense of balance.

Star is soft and voluptuous yet warm and rich. Its accessories such as magnolia flower, velvety apricot, rose petals, jasmine, orange flower, amber, vanilla, musks, tree moss, sandalwood and cedarwood give her a glow that's out of this world.

Metro is for the bold and chic, modern girl on the go. Japanese yuzu, magnolia, violet leaves, blackcurrant, gardenia, apricot, jasmine, lily of the valley, labdanum, precious wood accord, sandalwood and musk can relieve daily tension and anxiety while providing her freshness.

Sexy is the ultimate sensual scent. Mandarin, red berry and bergamot, jasmine, clove, lily of the valley, rose, incense, amber, sandalwood, vanilla and musks heighten the senses. It's for the flirty and playful.

But whether they express passion, commitment, innocence, boldness or elegance, Nature, Star, Metro and Sexy possess an inherent power that lasts long after the bottle is dabbed to the last drop.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

BIANCA Vallero models for Metro fragrance

TRISH Briones of Shiseido, Paolo Abad of e-bay and wife Toni Abad

GEORGETTE Nepomuceno for Sexy fragrance

DELIGHT DAD ON DADDY'S DAY

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EXPRESS YOUR LOVE FOR YOUR DAD – GREET HIM IN THE FATHER'S DAY SPECIAL SECTION OF THE INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS ON JUNE 16. FOR A DISCOUNTED RATE OF P50 PER LINE OR P150 PER COLUMN CENTIMETER, YOUR DAD ALSO GETS A CHANCE TO WIN GIFT CERTIFICATES IN OUR HIP HOP POP RAFFLE.

SO THIS FATHER'S DAY, LET HIM KNOW THAT YOU'RE SIMPLY GRATEFUL AND PROUD JUST TO CALL HIM YOUR FATHER. FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT OR CALL ANY OF OUR BRANCHES.

HIP HOP POP
FATHER'S DAY PROMO

RATES ARE VAT EXCLUSIVE AND APPLY ONLY ON THE JUNE 16 ISSUE.

PROMO MECHANICS

1. For every P200 worth of ad placement booked starting June 1, 2002 until June 15, 2002 for the Inquirer Classifieds Father's Day Special Section on June 16, 2002, the customer is entitled to receive one (1) raffle coupon.
2. Fill up raffle coupon with your name, address, tel. no., affix signature and your father's name, and drop in drop boxes located at Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor. Yague & Mascardo Sts., 1231 Makati City.
3. Entries must be received by 5:00 pm of June 20, 2002 to qualify for the raffle draw during which 5 fathers/ winners will each win gift certificates from Rustan's worth PHP 1,000.00.
4. The raffle draw will be held on June 24, 2002 at 3:00 pm at the PDI office in the presence of an official DTI representative.
5. An individual may send more than one entry but can only win once in the raffle draw.
6. GCs are not convertible to cash.
7. Raffle draw winners will be notified by phone and registered mail and their names will be announced via print ads.
8. Winners can claim their GCs at the PDI office upon presentation of the notification letter and a valid ID.
9. GCs not claimed within 60 days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior approval from DTI.
10. Employees and staff of PDI, their advertising agency and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
11. Promo is valid only in GMA. Gift Certificates are valid for one year and are acceptable at all branches.

Sample Ads

Happy Father's Day Daddy!
Love,
Gabby,
Mico,
Isa,
Johnny,
Marila

To my Daddy, Nicic
Someday I'll make you proud of me, just as I am of you. I love you.
HAPPY FATHER'S DAY DADIDAI
From your honey pie, AUDREY

size: 1 col x 4 cm
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Happy Father's Day Papa!
Thank you for everything.
We love you. Moreen & Matt

size: 3 lines
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
MessageBoard

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. 9436 SERIES OF 2002.

Antique books, anyone?

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

You can call me a sporadic, young amateur collector of anything old—from books to stamps, to coins and maps. Recently, our college library held a big book sale in their archives due to lack of space. I was able to buy for only P5 each, volumes of old books. I got first editions, rare copies of medical books and plenty of antiques from the 1830s and 1890s with lots of engraved prints. The library did not know what they were selling.

I asked the Gallery of Prints in Makati if they could appraise my collection, but it only specializes in Filipino prints. I tried looking in the Internet for book market values and found the prices for only a few. Is there an entity here in Manila that specializes in appraisal of antiquarian books?

JULIUS

Try the National Library. Call Lea Tominez, chief of the Bibliography Service division, at 524-1011. She might refer you to director Prudenciano C. Cruz, tel. 525-3196. Readers with other suggestions may e-mail the writer at julsitos@yahoo.com.

He has old gold coins

I'VE read your article about coin collecting. Are you interested to buy 1868 gold coins, the Isabel P4 Filipinas? Also, 1861 gold coins, Isabel P2? They are in good condition. If interested, how much will you offer?

MIKE

Corrections: I have not written about coin collection in any magazine, and I'm not buying. Years ago, I had several gold coins, but they were all stolen.

My advice is to get in touch with Albinio Quiban Jr. at 524-0548. Better still, show your coins to him so that he can really evaluate them. He is our top coin connoisseur from the Bank Notes Society of the Philippines. An official of the Central Bank told me about him. His address is 1184-F A. Mabini St., Ermita, Manila, near Arquiza.

Electricity problems

I LIVE in a busy section here in Metro Manila and I notice electric wiring that seems different, like two lines connected to one electric meter. I never see the linemen checking our meters since I am out of the house all day. Should I just ignore this? And what can you advice about economizing on electricity?

RICA

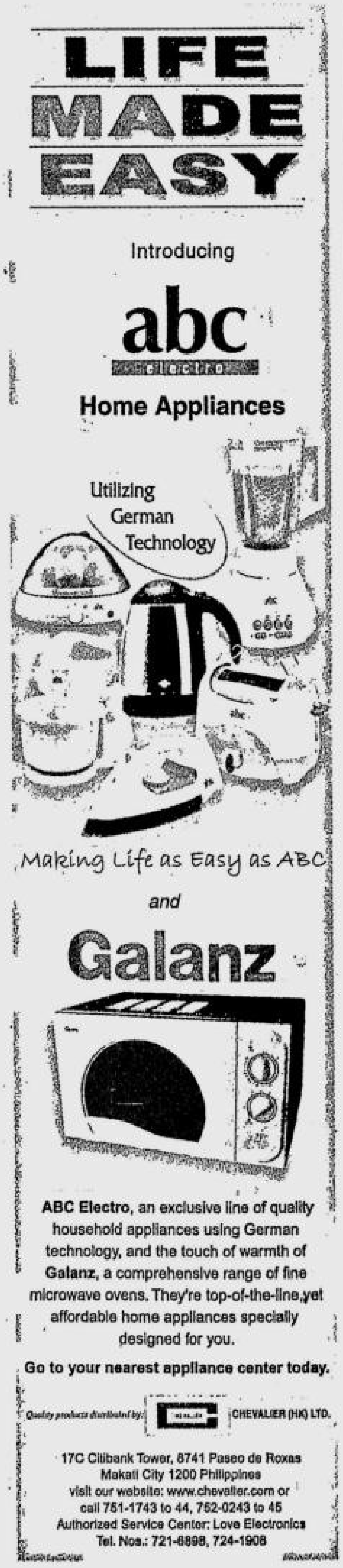
If you notice anything irregular, like a possible illegal connection, report it to Meralco at 631-1111. They will keep your report confidential.

To cut down on your electric bill, just use common sense, like turning off the light in your bathroom on your way out. When you turn on your electric iron, it uses current equivalent to your refrigerator, TV set and one electric fan. You can therefore save by just ironing clothes you wear when you leave home. Dusters, nightgowns, towels, etc. just need to be kept on hangers to dry completely.

Another reminder—during brownouts, unplug your refrigerator, and then wait from 10-15 minutes before plugging it back when the current returns. You see, the current at the start is rather strong and your electric meter will register it. It can also cause the light inside your fridge to break down.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ



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Sporty spice

By Tim Yap

Athletic gear has become the fashion home run of today's generation

BLAME it on fashion's obsession with perfection. Sportswear is indeed for the sturdy. What with people spending more and more time in the gym than anywhere else and sports activities and anything healthy replacing socials, sporty living has become a full-fledged lifestyle.

Nike's "Just do it" became the mantra of every living athlete on this planet. Ready, get set and go for that goal. Now, "Anybody with a body is an athlete," said Bill Bowerman, the sportswear giant's founder. And as athletes, we only want to wear what's tried and tested—stuff that gives us the illusion that we have gone through rugged terrain, the racetrack and rough courts. The more intense the better.

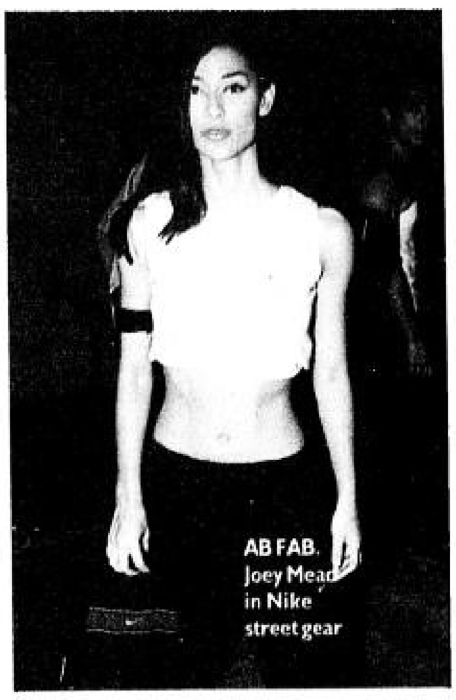
There lies the contradiction. Sportswear is meant for heavy-duty physical work, yet it fits like second skin to our bodies. Comfort is the key. Of late, the gym and the courts have not been the only spots for sportswear. It has crossed over, "beyond borders," to the malls, clubs, and other hot spots. It is everywhere. The romance with sports shoes—with training, walking and running shoes—dominates the dance scene as it does rock-climbing halls. Wearing sneakers with anything and everything is now considered hip.

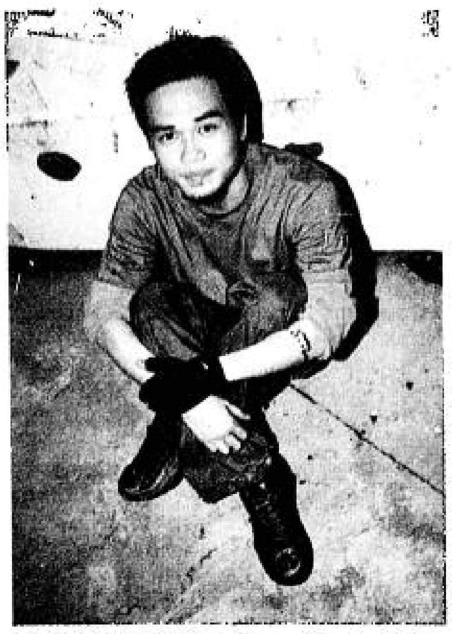
Kitty Go did just that (wore a beaded gown paired with sneakers) a decade ago and so did Swatch babe Sarah Meier at last week's MTV Pilipinas Awards. Joey Mead was the embodiment of sporty spice even before the Spice Girls became a pop phenomenon. Internationally, J. Lo sports this look, glammed up with dangling gold earrings and booty bouncing.

On the other hand, the latest craze, the "dri-fits," allows you to let your hair down, either while indulging in hard-core training, or dancing to hard-house or R&B beats. The Presto and Air Woven prove that sporty can also be stylish.

At the Nike event, "Beyond Borders," at the Play Underground in Rockwell, styled sportswear from head to toe of all sizes, shapes and colors played a feast for the senses with athletes sharing the stage with models, rock stars and other youth icons—people "who just do it." Swoosh.

STRETCH THAT SMILE. A Nike clad Verns Buckley at Rockwell's Play Underground


AB FAB. Joey Mead in Nike street gear


ROCK CLIMBER. Marc Abaya of Sandwich in styled sportswear

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0314 Series of 2002

MYX MAG. Michi Valeriano on the way to the gym

ALL WORKED OUT. Paolo and Jordan flex it up in Nike

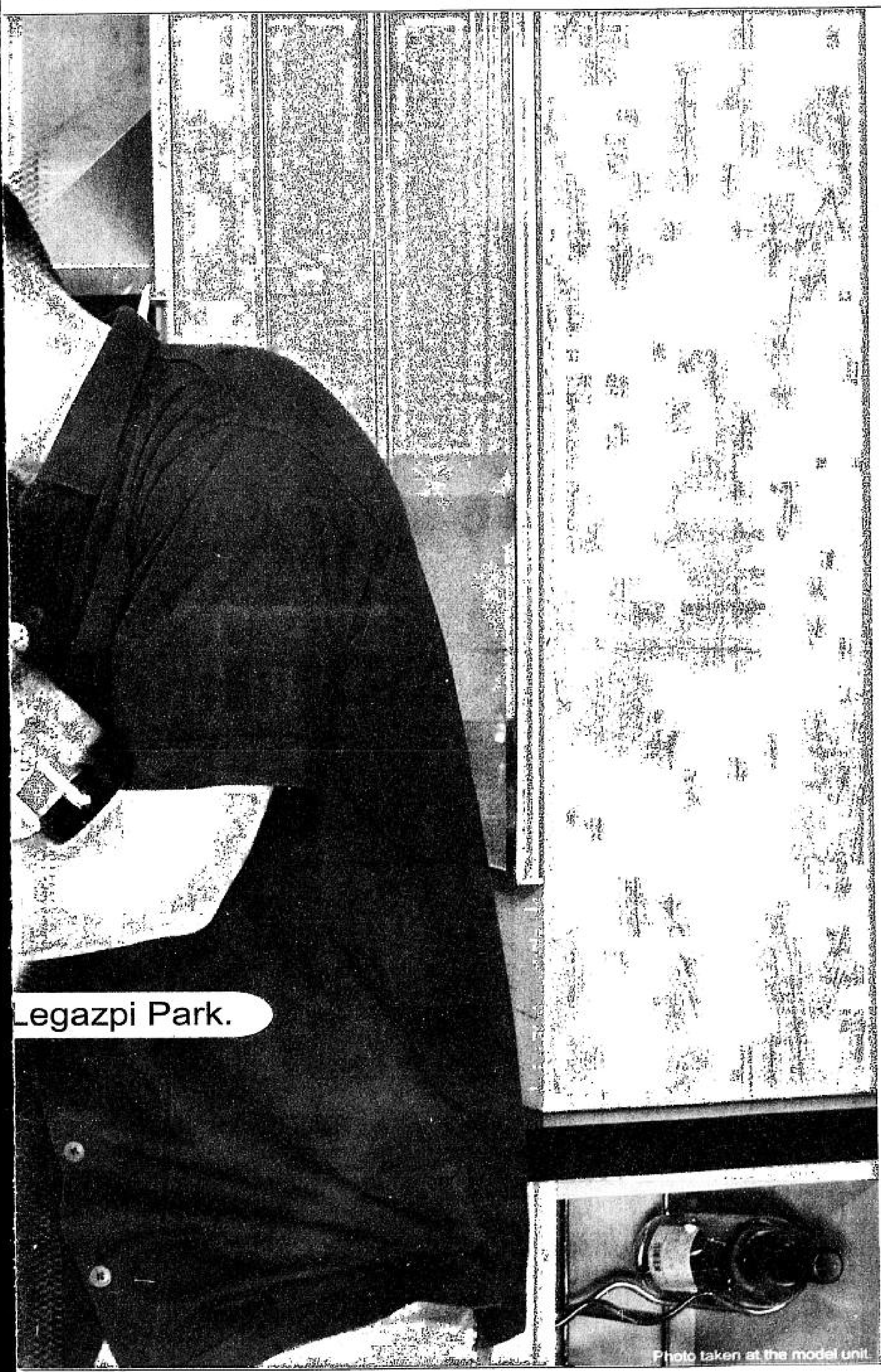
VIDEO KING. Lyle Sacris spotted at the "Beyond Borders" workshop

R&B BABE: 2Tay Maristela gets in groove

SPORTY DUO. Robby Mananquil and Nicolette Bell in Nike

HAVING A BALL. Paolo Paraiso juggles along

SPORTY BABE. Chinggay Andrada hosts the "Beyond Borders" event



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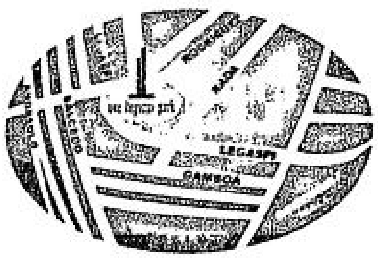

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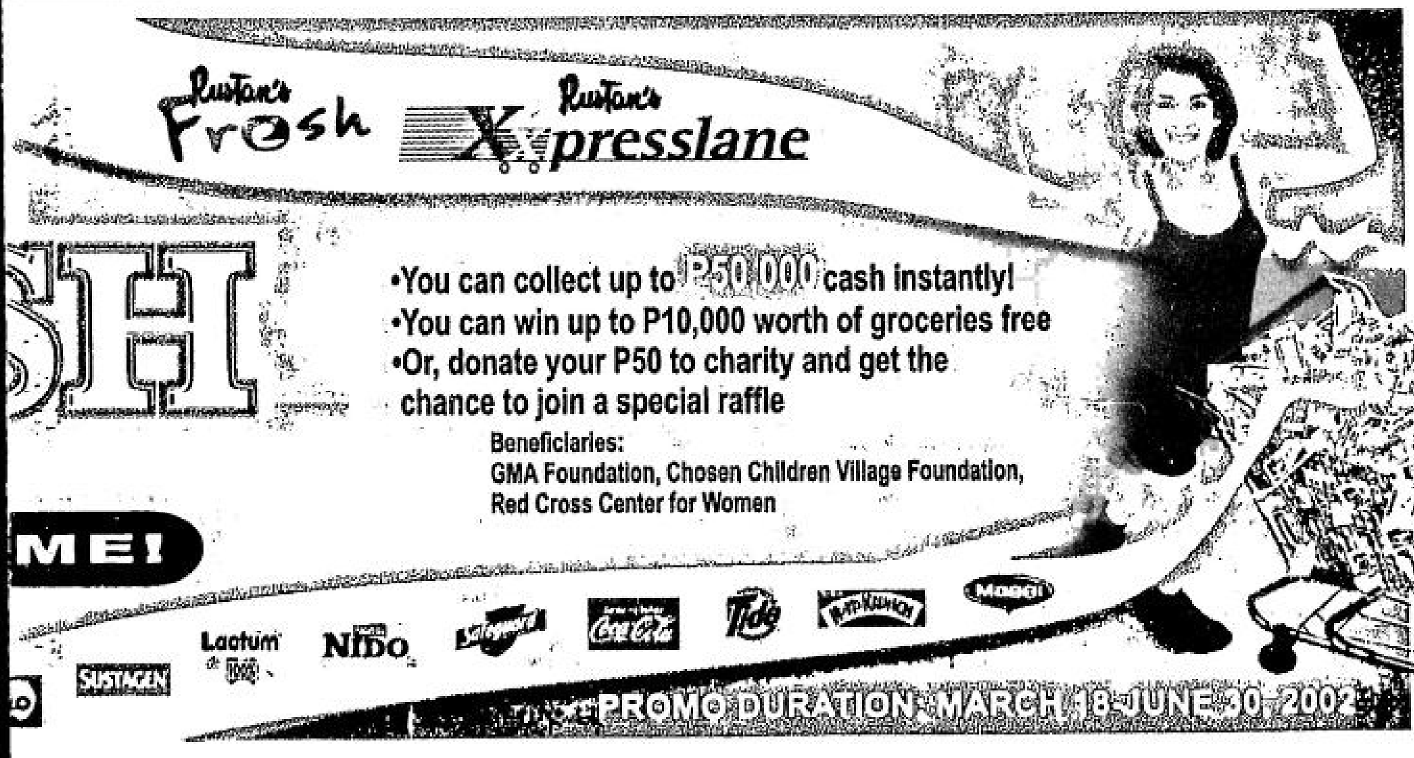

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• You also get **BONUS** punches when you buy participating products with special **"BONUS"** stickers.

• **"WILD CARDS"** entitle you to FREE groceries worth up to P10,000.00.

• Or, you can donate your P50.00 prize to charity and get the chance to win in a special raffle.

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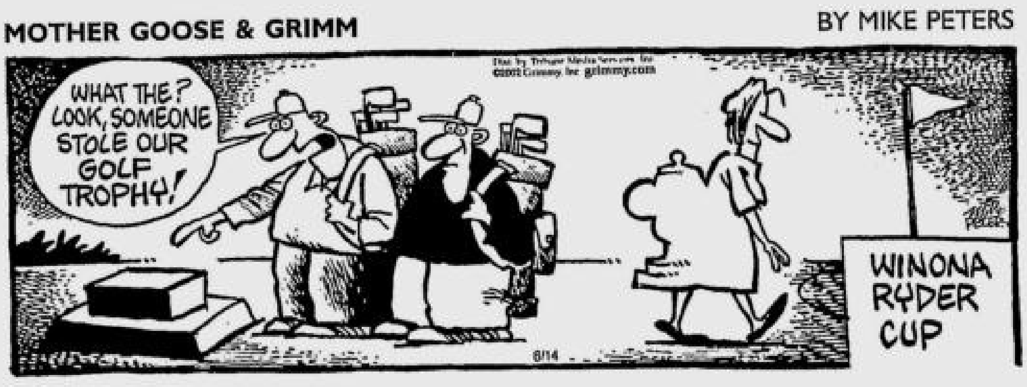
SEE POSTER FOR DETAILS

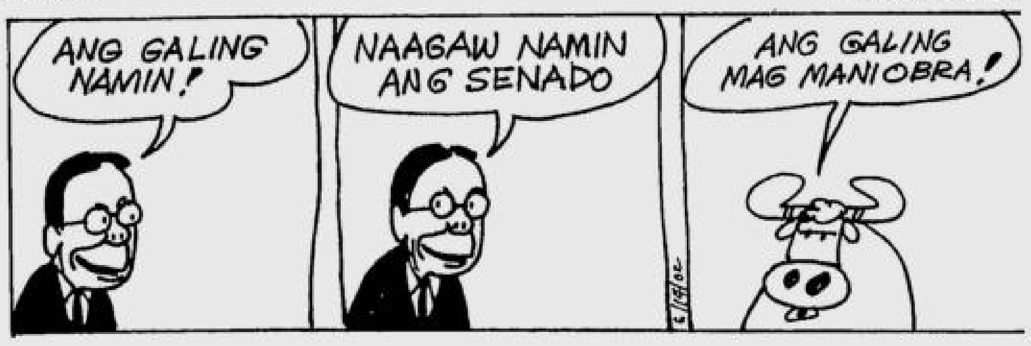
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHAT THE? LOOK, SOMEONE STOLE OUR GOLF TROPHY!
WINONA RYDER CUP
6/14

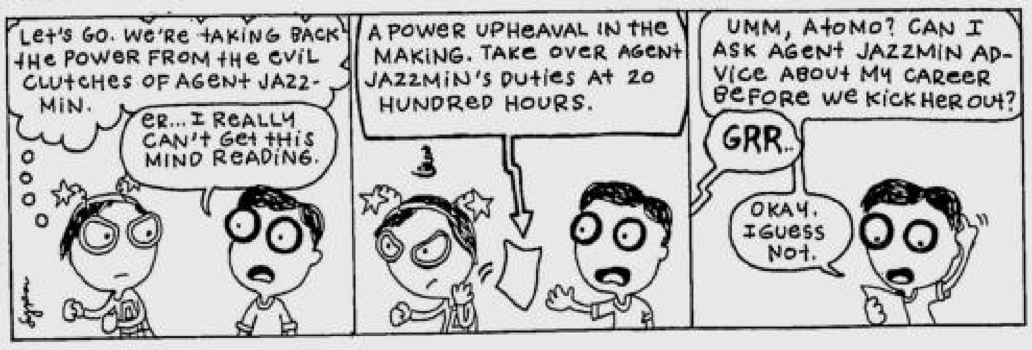
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ANG GALING NAMIN!
NAAGAW NAMIN ANG SENADO
ANG GALING MAG MANIOBRA!

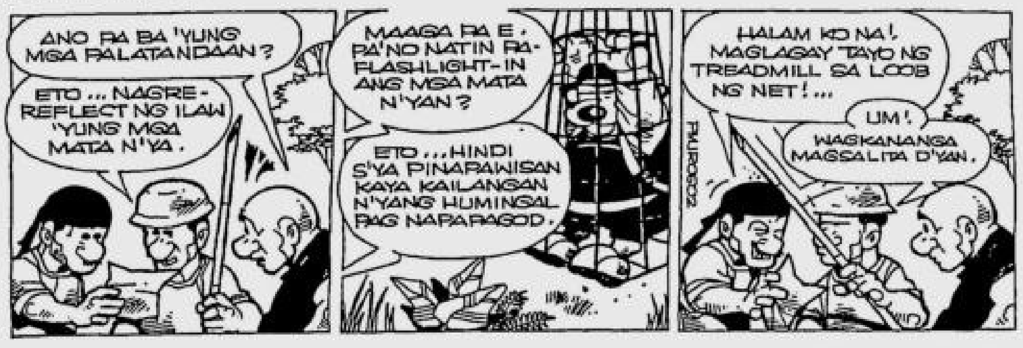
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


LET'S GO. WE'RE TAKING BACK THE POWER FROM THE EVIL CLUTCHES OF AGENT JAZZMIN.
ER... I REALLY CAN'T GET THIS MIND READING.
A POWER UPHEAVAL IN THE MAKING. TAKE OVER AGENT JAZZMIN'S DUTIES AT 20 HUNDRED HOURS.
UMM, ATOMO? CAN I ASK AGENT JAZZMIN ADVICE ABOUT MY CAREER BEFORE WE KICK HER OUT?
GRR..
OKAY. I GUESS NOT.

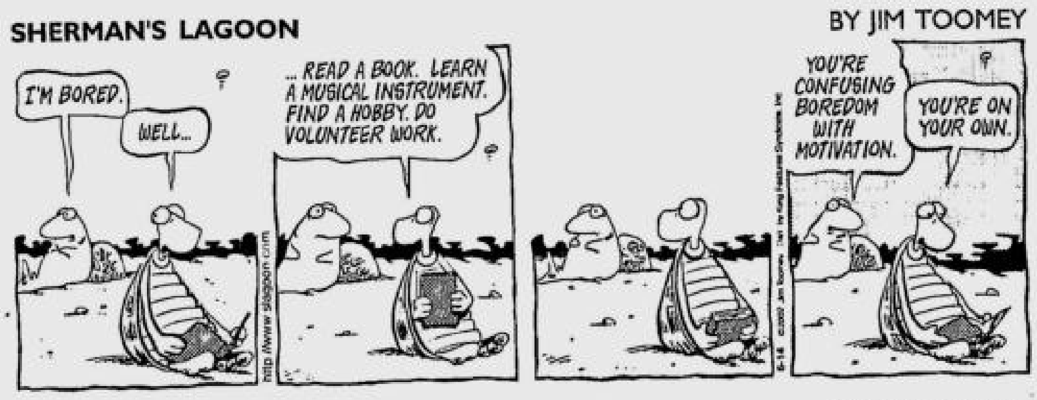
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO PA BA 'YUNG MGA PALATANDAAN?
ETO ... NAGRE-REFLECT NG ILAW 'YUNG MGA MATA N'YA.
MAAGA PA E. PA'NO NATIN PA-FLASHLIGHT-IN ANG MGA MATA N'YAN?
ETO ... HINDI S'YA PINAPAWISAN KAYA KAILANGAN N'YANG HUMINGAL PAG NAPAPAGOD.
HALAM KO NA! MAGLAGAY TAYO NG TREADMILL SA LOOB NG NET! ...
UM!
WAG KANANGA MAGSALITA D'YAN.

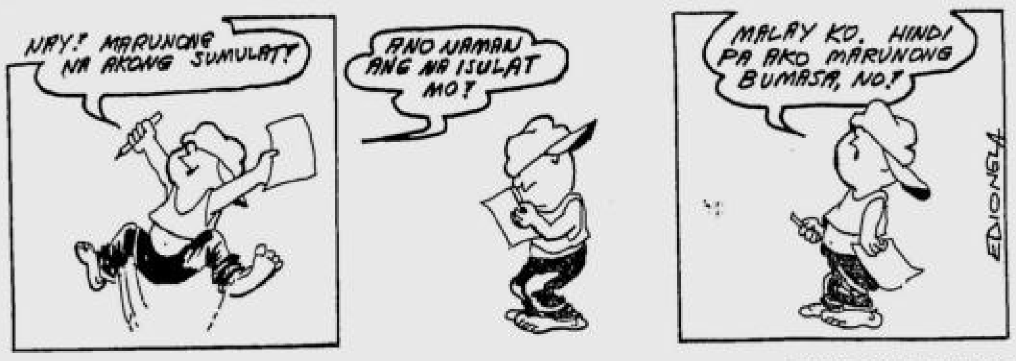
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


I'M BORED.
WELL...
... READ A BOOK. LEARN A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT. FIND A HOBBY. DO VOLUNTEER WORK.
YOU'RE CONFUSING BOREDOM WITH MOTIVATION.
YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN.
http://www.slagoon.com

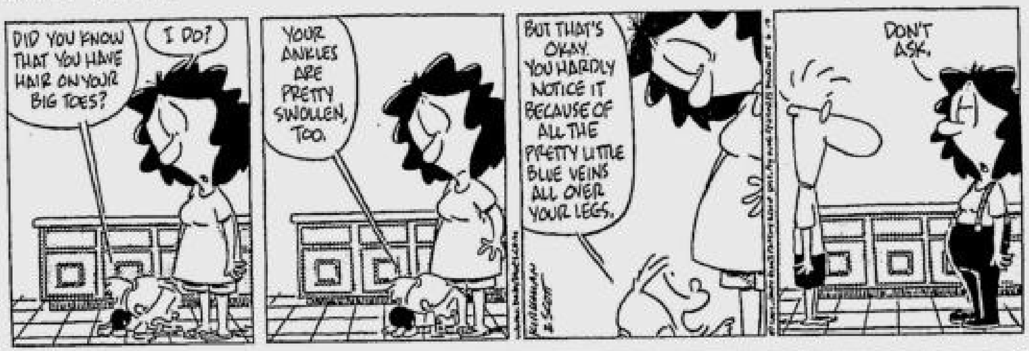
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAY! MARUNONG NA AKONG SUMULAT!
ANO NAMAN ANG NA ISULAT MO?
MALAY KO. HINDI PA AKO MARUNONG BUMASA, NO?
EDIONELA

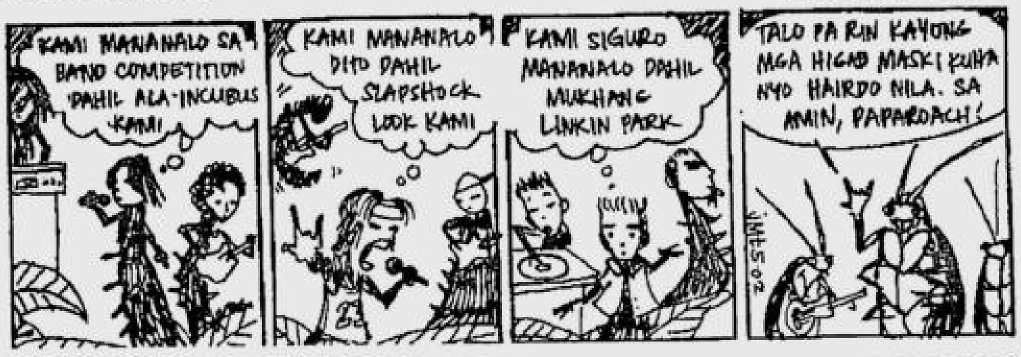
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE HAIR ON YOUR BIG TOES?
I DO?
YOUR ANKLES ARE PRETTY SWOLLEN, TOO.
BUT THAT'S OKAY. YOU HARDLY NOTICE IT BECAUSE OF ALL THE PRETTY LITTLE BLUE VEINS ALL OVER YOUR LEGS.
DON'T ASK.

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KAMI MANANALO SA BAND COMPETITION DAHIL ALA-INCUBUS KAMI
KAMI MANANALO DITO DAHIL SLAPSHOCK LOOK KAMI
KAMI SIGURO MANANALO DAHIL MUKHANG LINKIN PARK
TALO PA RIN KAYONG MGA HIGAD MASKI KUHA NYO HAIRDO NILA. SA AMIN, PAPAROACH!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Donald Trump, Boy George, Yasmine Bleeth

Happy Birthday: It is best to be secretive about your intentions in order to avoid opposition this year. Greater involvement with an institution is likely but should bring good results. You will have a tendency to be self-destructive. This is not the year to present your ideas but it is the time to work on them. Your numbers are 6, 19, 21, 29, 37, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your competitive nature will help you succeed at whatever you decide to take on. The more you can pack into your schedule, the better.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can expect to face some opposition at home. Family members may not be too receptive to the ideas you have. Don't try to force your will on others. Sort your problems out by yourself.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You can get everyone's attention today if you stand up and tell it like it is. Favors will be granted and progress will be made.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You can make some good financial maneuvers today. Check out an investment that someone brought to your attention. Don't neglect any chronic ailment that you have. Keep on top of your money and legal matters.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may take the role of a drama king or queen today. Don't let your overpowering personality get you into trouble. If you are fun to be with everyone will want to be by your side.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): There may be some underhandedness going on today. Look out for a jealous colleague who may want to make you look bad. Be careful where you put your valuables.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You always want everything to be harmonious but sometimes you cannot protect others from the things that they have to face. Your helping hand will be appreciated and rewarded today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Someone will be watching you carefully and if you appear to be wasting time, it may give him or her the wrong opinion. Follow your intuition: If you feel someone is not telling you the whole truth, ask questions.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be in an adventurous mood today. Make plans to be out where you will meet the most people and discover new things. Travel or educational pursuits will be in your best interest.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You'll be in the mood to overspend. You will be impatient and intolerant of what others advise you to do. Try to avoid saying things that you'll regret later.

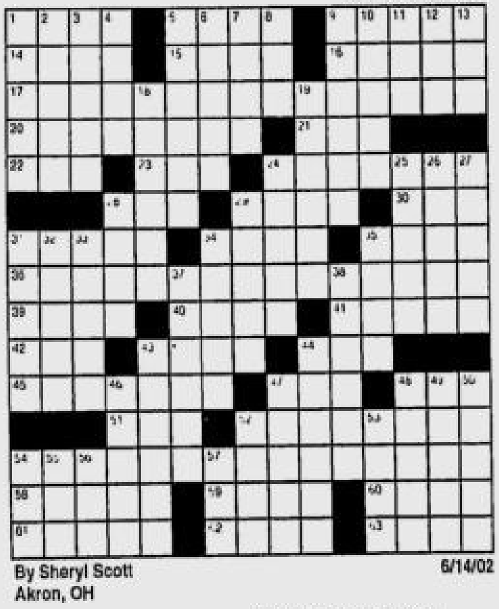
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will be confused and emotional regarding partnerships today. Romantic encounters will develop through colleagues or friends, however, you must be careful not to take things too quickly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will want everything done immediately today, so prepare to do the work yourself. Use your willpower to finish off what you start. Feel good at the end of the day.

Birthday Baby: You will be energetic and will express yourself with great determination and willpower, always willing to stand behind your beliefs. You will be intense and relentless in all that you do, making you a tough competitor.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Sheryl Scott
Akron, OH

6/14/02

ACROSS
1 Healing sign
5 Knock for a loop
9 Left hungry
14 Earthenware pot
15 Relaxation
16 Pleasant Island, today
17 Celebrate municipally?
20 Victimizer
21 Movie in "Variety"
22 Craving
23 Sign of victory
24 Sahara and Gobi
28 Pinky or Peggy
29 Verbal subtlety
30 Historical period
31 Thin cookie
34 Tree trunk
35 Slender
36 Seventh-Day Adventist co-founder
39 Skiers' ride
40 Goes bad
41 Movie evaluator
42 Ring of flowers
43 Inmates
44 Man with Dorothy?
45 Gold and amber
47 Small portion
48 Set
51 Individual
52 Backyard facilities
54 Sudden turn of events
58 Join together
59 Overdo TLC
60 Isaac's eldest
61 Word with oil or pool
62 Bunny moms
63 Cry of pain

DOWN
1 Overly sentimental
2 __ Boothe Luce
3 UFO pilot
4 Musical group
5 Small sofa
6 Lake near Reno
7 Computer operator
8 Profit figure
9 Foolish
10 Sportscaster Jim
11 Coati coat
12 Afore
13 Failure
18 Saloon
19 Unwrapped
24 Barbie and Ken, e.g.
25 Punch again
26 Banal
27 More rational
28 Sly look
29 Track tipsters
31 How a water balloon splatters
32 Dramatist Edward
33 Thrash
34 Blessings
35 Comparison word
37 Agriculturist
38 Squirm
43 Huddle
44 Church donations
46 Numbers game
47 City in Montana
48 Heartbeat
49 Commonplace
50 Prepare to drive
52 Melville novel
53 Wedding-vow directive
54 Hobo
55 John's Yoko
56 Illuminated
57 Unmatched

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

A	M	M	O	■	A	T	O	P	■	P	I	C	O	T
L	O	A	N	■	C	A	L	L	■	I	T	A	L	Y
P	O	R	T	■	A	R	I	A	■	S	C	R	I	P
■	■	Y	O	U	C	A	N	N	O	T	H	A	V	E
P	E	T	■	N	I	S	■	T	W	O	■	T	E	E
E	L	Y	R	I	A	■	S	A	I	L	S	■	■	■
R	E	L	E	T	■	S	H	I	N	■	A	D	I	T
E	V	E	R	Y	T	H	I	N	G	W	H	E	R	E
S	E	R	A	■	O	O	P	S	■	R	E	C	A	P
■	■	■	N	U	K	E	S	■	R	E	L	A	T	E
A	R	C	■	D	A	H	■	S	O	S	■	N	E	E
W	O	U	L	D	Y	O	U	P	U	T	I	T	■	■
A	G	R	E	E	■	R	H	O	S	■	D	I	V	A
R	U	L	E	R	■	N	U	D	E	■	E	N	I	D
D	E	S	K	S	■	S	H	E	D	■	A	G	E	D

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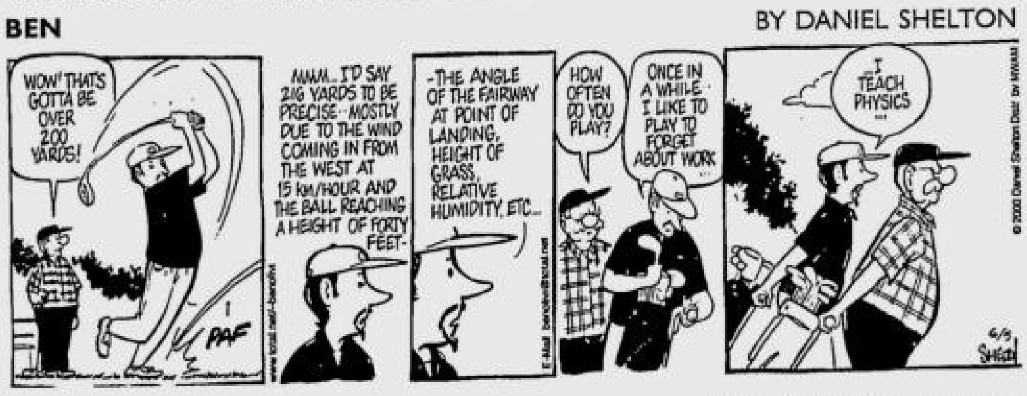
6/14/02

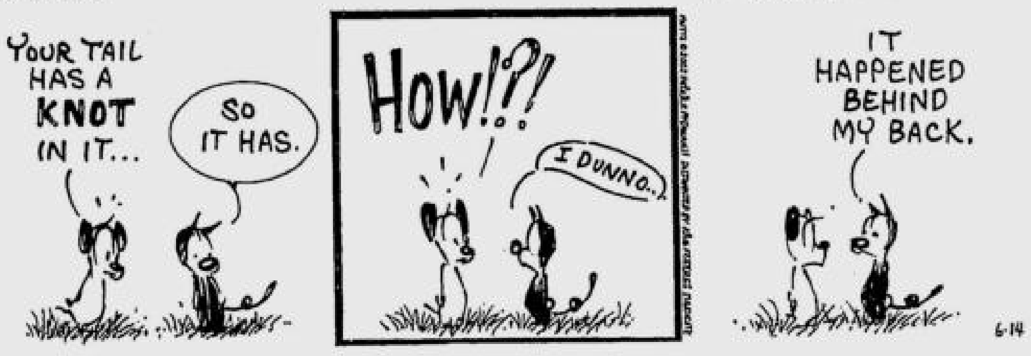
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


WOW! THAT'S GOTTA BE OVER 200 YARDS!
PAF
MMM... I'D SAY 216 YARDS TO BE PRECISE-- MOSTLY DUE TO THE WIND COMING IN FROM THE WEST AT 15 KM/HOUR AND THE BALL REACHING A HEIGHT OF FORTY FEET-
-THE ANGLE OF THE FAIRWAY AT POINT OF LANDING, HEIGHT OF GRASS, RELATIVE HUMIDITY, ETC...
HOW OFTEN DO YOU PLAY?
ONCE IN A WHILE. I LIKE TO PLAY TO FORGET ABOUT WORK
I TEACH PHYSICS
6/5 SHELTON

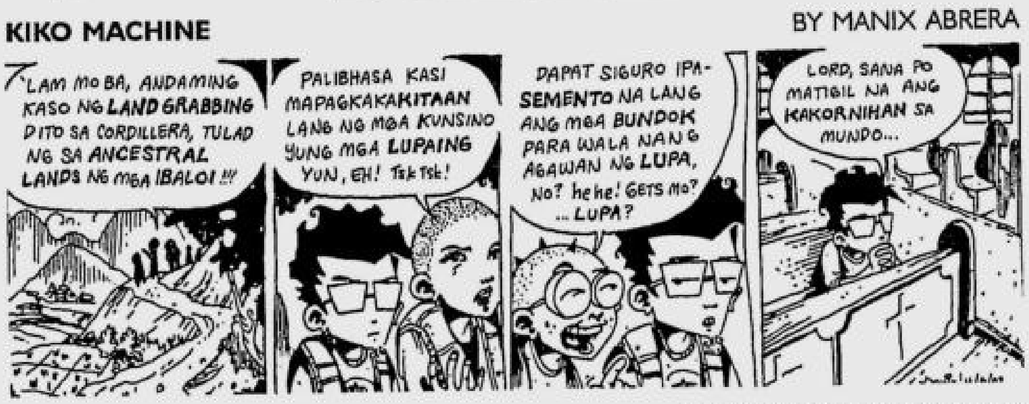
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


YOUR TAIL HAS A KNOT IN IT...
SO IT HAS.
HOW!?!
I DUNNO..
IT HAPPENED BEHIND MY BACK.
6-14

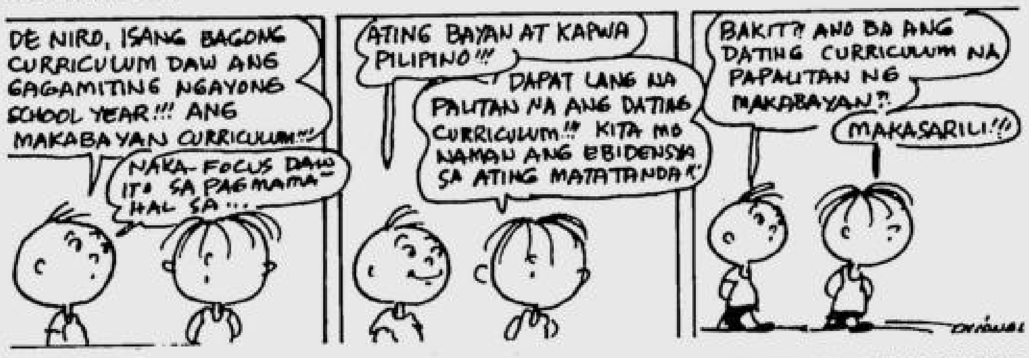
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ALAM MO BA, ANDAMING KASO NG LAND GRABBING DITO SA CORDILLERA, TULAD NG SA ANCESTRAL LANDS NG MGA IBALOI!!!
PALIBHASA KASI MAPAGKAKAKITAAN LANG NG MGA KUNSINO YUNG MGA LUPAING YUN, EH! TSK TSK!
DAPAT SIGURO IPA-SEMENTO NA LANG ANG MGA BUNDOK PARA WALA NANG AGAWAN NG LUPA, NO? HE HE! GETS MO? ...LUPA?
LORD, SANA PO MATIGIL NA ANG KAKORNIHAN SA MUNDO...

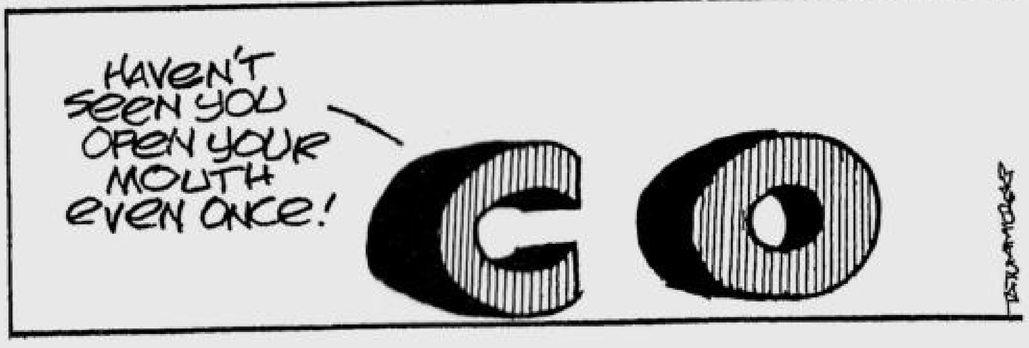
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, ISANG BAGONG CURRICULUM DAW ANG GAGAMITING NGAYONG SCHOOL YEAR!!! ANG MAKABAYAN CURRICULUM!!
NAKA-FOCUS DAW ITO SA PAGMAMAHAL SA...
ATING BAYAN AT KAPWA PILIPINO!!!
DAPAT LANG NA PALITAN NA ANG DATING CURRICULUM!! KITA MO NAMAN ANG EBIDENSYA SA ATING MATATANDA!
BAKIT?! ANO BA ANG DATING CURRICULUM NA PAPALITAN NG MAKABAYAN?!
MAKASARILI!!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


HAVEN'T SEEN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH EVEN ONCE!

Modeling and show biz are today's career preferences

From page E1

right. He's now **Cogie Domingo**.

My sons aren't extraordinarily interested in show biz, and I'm not sure their friends are. But last Sunday convinced me that to their generation, modeling and show biz are career paths they're not ashamed, or even reluctant, to pursue, the way my generation did for mass or broadcast communication. They have no hang-ups about their looks or their singing-dancing talents (or non-talents), and seem not to have any qualms if they put their good looks over and above their academic skills. In my time if you put your looks above your books, you'd be mortified or the nuns would make sure you'd be.

I believe you can do trending with careers through the decades. In my time, it was radical activism; fighting or dying for your country (or Mao) was a career path. That proving too messy, we settled for Mass Communication. A decade later, fashion designing was in. Recently, culinary arts was in, to be studied here or abroad (preferably the latter) and mostly everyone wanted to be chef.

COGIE Domingo

> In our time, it was masscom. Then everybody wanted to be a fashion designer, then recently, a chef

Past vogue

My friend **Ricky Reyes** goes even further back. In the post-war '50s, he says, it was fashionable to be in the US Navy or Army. At that time, he said, mostly everyone wanted to be a doctor or a lawyer. Commerce was also an "in" course. Then a decade ago, he says, it was the vogue to open hair salons (he should know). Recently, he agrees with me, more and more youngsters wanted to be chefs.

Today, many believe modeling and show biz are their destiny. My cousin is so confident that her daughter has the looks—she has, I must say—to make it in modeling. Since she learned that I had joined ABS-CBN, she has been faithfully sending me progress photos of my niece showing her blossoming into a pretty young woman, being crowned Miss this or Miss that, hoping I could open career doors. And with them come photos of my other nieces and nephews (talk about clout).

I have mini-statistics to show that modeling and show biz are on the radar screen of today's young. The ABS-CBN Talent Center has a mega audition today and going by track record, they expect to get about 3,000 aspirants in one day, many of them coming from the provinces and cutting across social classes. The Talent Center's workshops alone get, on the average, 200 students, most of them enrolling not so much as to acquire performing skills as to get a toehold in the network.

It's obvious by now that the lure of modeling and show biz is not restricted to social class. Not anymore. The Talent Center holds job fairs in elite enclaves such as La Salle or Ateneo—traditional snobs when it comes to show biz—where they don't run out of aspirants. "Some of them ask who's in Star Circle," a Talent Center executive says. "When I said **Christian Vasquez**, this girl said, 'Ok, I'm in.'"

Deo Endrinal, an ABS-CBN creative consultant who has built up the likes of **Diether Ocampo**, notes how modeling and show biz today have become a class equalizer. "You'll see a star on 'teleserye' on TV one day, and at night he'll be at Pravda."

Wannabes

Tonight at Araneta Coliseum, Bench holds its annual much-awaited hunks-and-babes show, titled "One Night Only," which will have no less than 150 models. And to hear director **Ariel Lozada** describe the making of the show, they didn't have a hard time at all tapping that number. From Metro Manila to Cebu, they were swamped with model wanna-be's, most of them students as young as 15, with parents in tow. All were willing to display their bodies.

"Hindi ka ba takot sa bakla?" Ariel mock-scared a young hunk who could only stare back bashfully. Next day, the aspirant came back with a token offering—a plate of "biko." (Mind your market value, Ariel.)

Yet, like in the Star Circle, in the Bench show, only a handful were chosen out of the hundreds.

"What happens is, it's still the agents who seek them out," says Deo. "Of the hundreds of applicants, perhaps only one or two will make it. The rest, we find ourselves."

"It's today's status symbol," Deo says of modeling and show biz.

What lures these kids into modeling or show biz?

Easy money. Glamour. Or what they think are easy money or glamour. In fact, nothing comes easy.

"They say they want to help their parents," says **Mariol Alberto**, AVP of Talent Center, "but in truth that doesn't happen overnight. For a time, their parents will have to spend for them, their makeup, their clothes."

Among these model-show biz wannabes, Mariol sniffs out a dream. "Endorsing (a product) is their dream," she says, "to stand for something, that people trust them enough to buy what they endorse. You sense that after they bag an endorsement, they gain this confidence, this transformation as if overnight."

Talent executives like Mariol have developed the craft, even the art, of making sure these kids keep their feet on the ground. "You kinda pinch them and remind them not to let these things get into their heads," she says, "yet you also notice the instant change—they wear shades, they gel their hair."

These kids can transform themselves into celebrities just like that, it seems. They take to celebrityhood and the glitz of fame readily.

Media-celeb culture

I guess it's the environment, the media-celeb culture they grow up in. I believe there's more to this lure than easy money and glamour.

Their generation has been brought up in a global culture where physical beauty and youth are turned into a daily obsession, and can be easily had. Attribute that to the marketing savvy of every beauty and fashion brand out there—which they overdose on—and their round-the-clock exposure to MTV, the fashion glossies and the TV fare "Friends" and "Sex and the City," which thrive on style as much as plot.

The kids grow up not being ashamed of their looks or their bodies and are, on the contrary, conditioned to wield them as tools for golden opportunities. You've got it, flaunt it. They're reared in a mindset where style can be substance and vice versa, and they have easy access to every technology and product that can give them both style and substance.

Sophistication—or the appearance of it—is an all-time goal, thanks again to media and communication technology.

And—they're not camera-phobic. Think **Tim Yap**. Point the camera at them and they know which angle is their best. They wear not only clothes, they wear an attitude. Self-packaging is an art they master without remorse, again as if instinctively, unlike my generation that was made to commit to values that look beyond one's self, and into the "other."

Useful

Curiously, Talent executives like Mariol take great pains to discourage their finds from quitting school, to make them see how formal education is as useful as, if not more useful than, a show biz career.

Yet how strong can such admonitions be when matched against a culture that says you don't have to hit the books or develop an academic regimen to earn money or to move ahead in this world. My generation grew up believing that books were everything; you don't make it to the Dean's List, you're a goner. This generation can even skip correct grammar and spelling altogether, thanks to texting.

So are all these bad? Are our kids in worse shape than we?

I wish I could be simplistic or preachy and say yes. But the world is changing faster than we can even fathom it. Each generation creates its own trends, its needs and demands, its skills and talents suited to the kind of world it's being ushered into. Each generation has a natural instinct for self-preservation.

This generation is succumbing to the perks and glitz technology, wealth and "progress" can bring. It's comfortable with the gloss of celebrityhood to a degree we never were.

That's all fine, to a great extent. What we—who have been there, though not necessarily done that—can help these kids develop is good balance, of all the things in life. And good anchor.

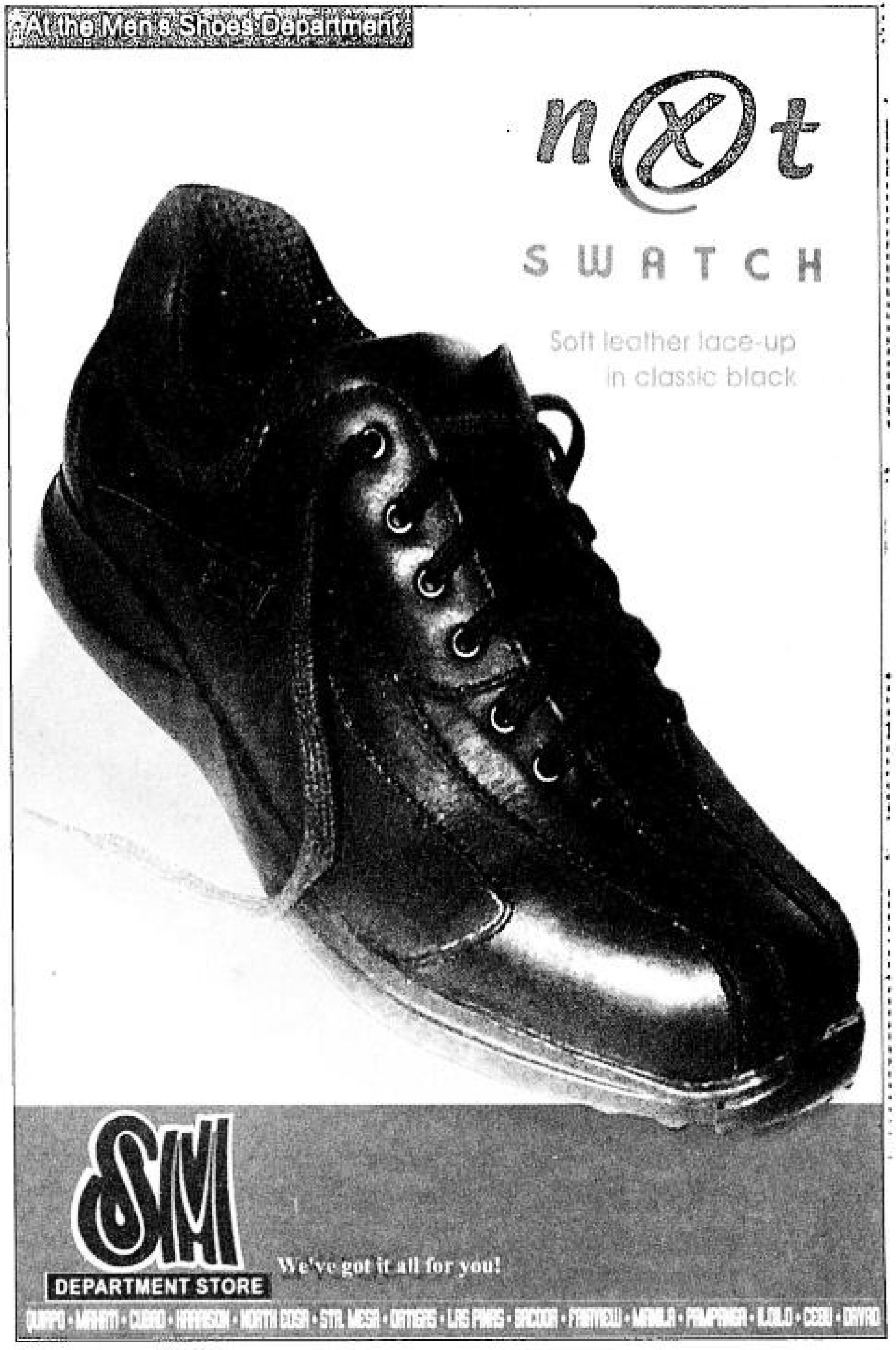
Anchor, I believe, can only come from values of integrity, hard work, inner faith and spirituality, family life. Values, in whatever generation, must be non-negotiable.

With such an anchor, our kids' generation will be not only beautiful enough to be models and actors-actresses, but also grow up happy.

In the end, there's nothing more tragic than a sad and empty human being, in whatever generation.

So now, how to negotiate talent fee with my kid's model-wannabe friends. Wonder if they'll accept GCs (gift certificates).

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph


At the Men's Shoes Department
n@t
SWATCH
Soft leather lace-up in classic black
SM
DEPARTMENT STORE
We've got it all for you!
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS • LAS PIÑAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • MANILA • PAMPANGA • ILOILO • CEBU • DAVAO

Ito ang Bagong Champion!
PUREFOODS BEEF LOAF SUPERIOR
SIKSIK
Sa Laman
SIKSIK
Sa Sustansya
SIKSIK
Sa Sarap
PUREFOODS
Beef Loaf
Superior
PUREFOODS HORMEL
SERVING SUGGESTION
Pakyaw Na!
PUREFOODS BEEF LOAF SUPERIOR
Superior sa Sarap at Sustansya
PUREFOODS HORMEL

"Para sa champion na tulad ko,
isa lang ang champion sa beef loaf:
Ang Bagong Purefoods Beef Loaf Superior.
Buong-buo at di madaling madurog.
Punung-puno ng protina.
Gustung-gusto ng aking pamilya."

MANNY PACQUIAO
World Super Bantamweight Champion

Style on your watchful eyes

TAG Heuer has tapped Ross Lovegrove to design its smashing eyewear line

By Anne A. Jambora

TAG Heuer has always been associated with artistic luxury chronometers, and for 142 years it has established an enviable reputation for the impeccable accuracy and precision of its watches. The last quality is especially seen in the world of sports. This year, the company launches Sports Vision, its first line of sports and eyewear collection that complements the active lifestyle of its customers.

Like the timepieces, the sports and eyewear collection reflects the company's pursuit for technology and avant-garde design. To achieve this, TAG Heuer tapped the multi-awarded designer Ross Lovegrove to create sleek and seamless eyewear frames that bank on comfort and firm grip.

Lovegrove is a UK-based designer who has worked with Sony, Apple, Louis Vuitton, Hermes, British Airways, among others, and will soon consult for the interiors of the new Airbus A3XX and Japan Airlines. He also designs furniture for Cappellini, Fasem, Moroso and Edra, kitchen tools for Guzzini, and cookware and gadgets for Hackman. Of course, as typical of Lovegrove who's notorious for his futuristic inventions, the TAG Heuer design is ultra-modern that can yet become a classic.

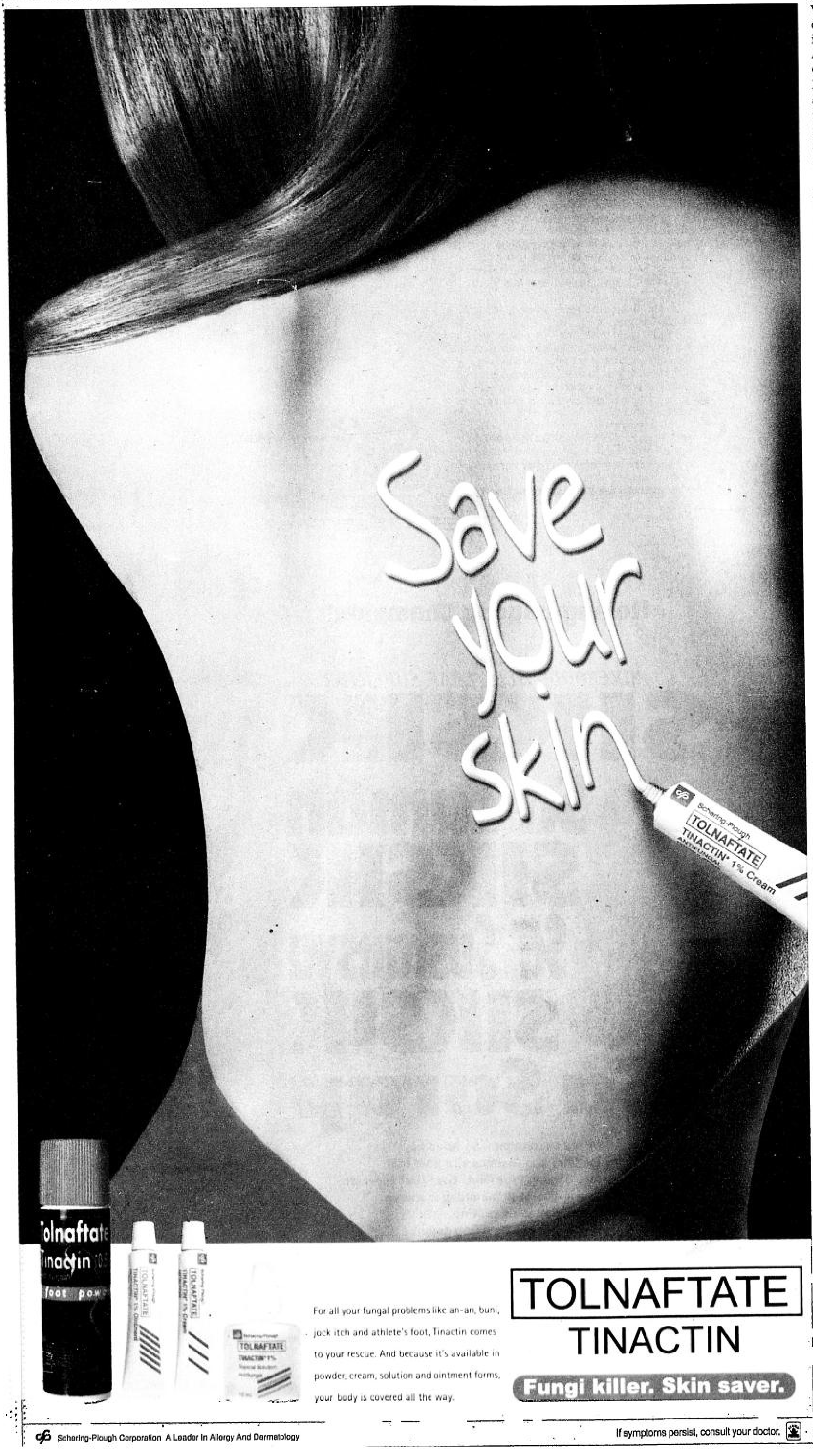
"What differentiates us from other popular sports eyewear brands is our timeless design for the TAG Heuer Physics Series," says Logo Asia GM Sebastien Saracchi. He says unlike other brands that focus on youth and put out in the market conspicuous designs in ultra-bright colors that easily go out of style, TAG Heuer's target market is between 20-40 years old for which the watch house makes subtle yet sublime design statements.

"Our designs are discreet. We want something you can wear at work and at play, where you don't have to bring with you many types of eyewear just to look appropriate during different occasions," he says. Besides the unique design, Saracchi says the Physics Series is twice lighter than other popular sports sunglasses.

The TAG Heuer eyewear frames are composed of titanium, aluminum and magnesium for extra strength. The polycarbonate lenses are water- and shock-resistant, and boast of enhanced precision for crystal-clear vision. The eyewear collection is 100-percent UV-resistant. The high-tech rubber composition not only hides unsightly hinges; it has ergonomic functions as well, such as an adjustable nose pad and end-tip, and has a matching integrated strap to boot. "All parts are easily adjustable so you can fashion the fit to your comfort, whatever shape your face may be," he says.

The TAG Heuer eyewear collection is exclusively distributed by CP Optics.

E-mail the author at splat_blag@excite.com.



For all your fungal problems like an-an, buni, jock itch and athlete's foot, Tinactin comes to your rescue. And because it's available in powder, cream, solution and ointment forms, your body is covered all the way.

TOLNAFTATE
TINACTIN

Fungi killer. Skin saver.

Schering-Plough Corporation A Leader In Allergy And Dermatology

If symptoms persist, consult your doctor.

Cellulite is accumulated in your skin's deeper layers to bulge out in unsightly "orange peel" areas on your buttocks, hips and thighs. But here's the good news. You can control the look of cellulite in 6-8 weeks. Cellasene, the clinically-tested breakthrough cellulite pill has sold 15 million packs in 25 countries and is the top selling brand in Europe and Japan. Developed and made in Europe, Cellasene is a potent blend of natural plant extracts that work naturally within your body. Cellasene may improve the appearance of cellulite on your buttocks and thighs to a firmer, ideal shape. With 2-3 capsules a day, see and feel the difference. And that's the naked truth.

The naked truth!

Ask for Cellasene at Rustan's (Shangri-la, Cubao, Harrison Plaza), Mercury Drug and Watsons.
Call 817 1352 InfoText 0917 813 6885

Home LIFESTYLE

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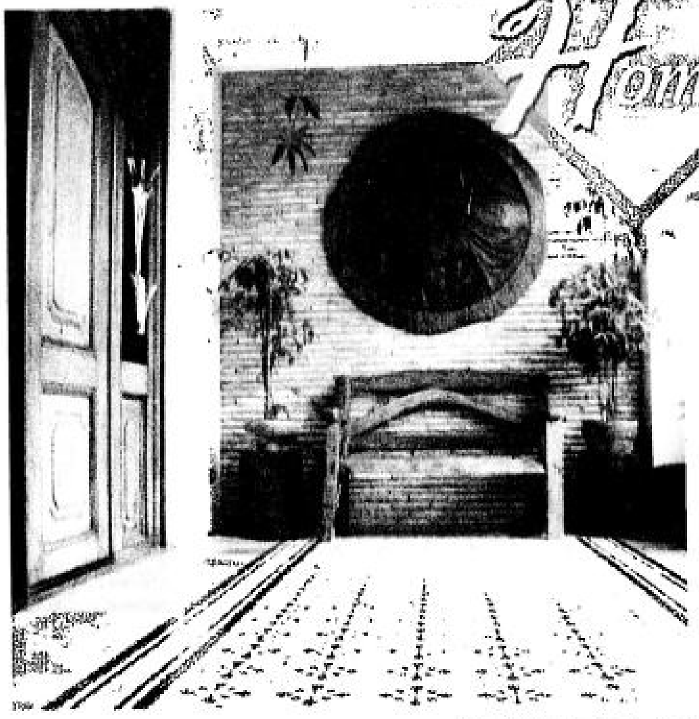
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

The old is new again



ONLY the concrete walls, Vigan and machuca tiles are of recent vintage.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

GIL and Rose Scott had originally wanted a Greek-inspired home similar to those that line the Mediterranean coast, but their architect eventually convinced them to go Filipiniana. Judging from the house's outcome, the couple has very little reason to regret their decision.

Because of Joven Ignacio's love for Filipino designs and his advocacy for adoptive reuse, the Scotts' two-story abode in Marikina is a throwback to the Spanish era. The architect has combined such elements as sturdy hardwood, shingled roofs and windows made of capiz or cathedral glass to come up with a modern-day version of the *bahay na bato*.

Yes, except for the concrete walls, shingled roofs and flooring made either of Vigan or machuca tiles, almost every item that went into the house had been sourced from Ilocos Norte.

"Rather than contradict their earlier plan," says Ignacio, "I offered them other options."

Ideal

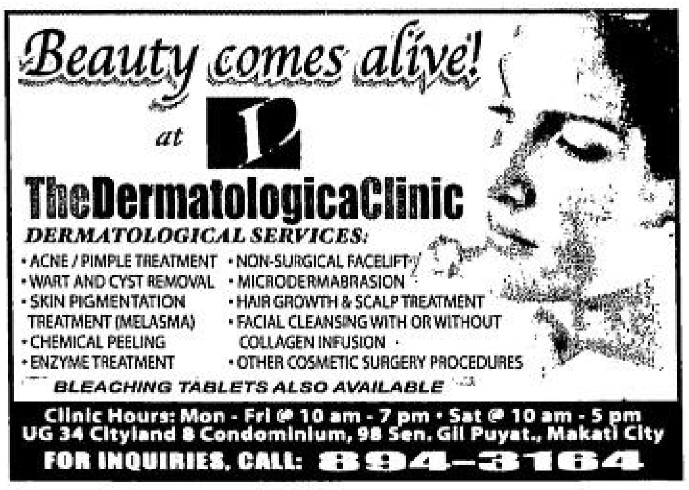
He knew from the start that a Filipino-inspired home would look ideal in such a bucolic setting. Instead of squatter shanties, corn and other crops thrive by the banks of the sleepy Marikina River. The village lies several meters above the riverbank to spare it from yearly floods.

Rose's change of heart was bolstered during one of her visits to her native Vigan. She was looking for 50 or so vintage windows to go into her home when she learned of an old house that was up for the wrecking ball in the heart of nearby Laoag.

"The suppliers found my demand for windows staggering," she says. "They suggested I buy the house instead."

The ancestral home, which had once belonged to the Pasyon family, had to go to make way for a commercial establishment. Like typical merchants, its new owners were oblivious to the structure's historical and aesthetic value. After buying the house, Rose and her archi-

THE OLD/ p.F2



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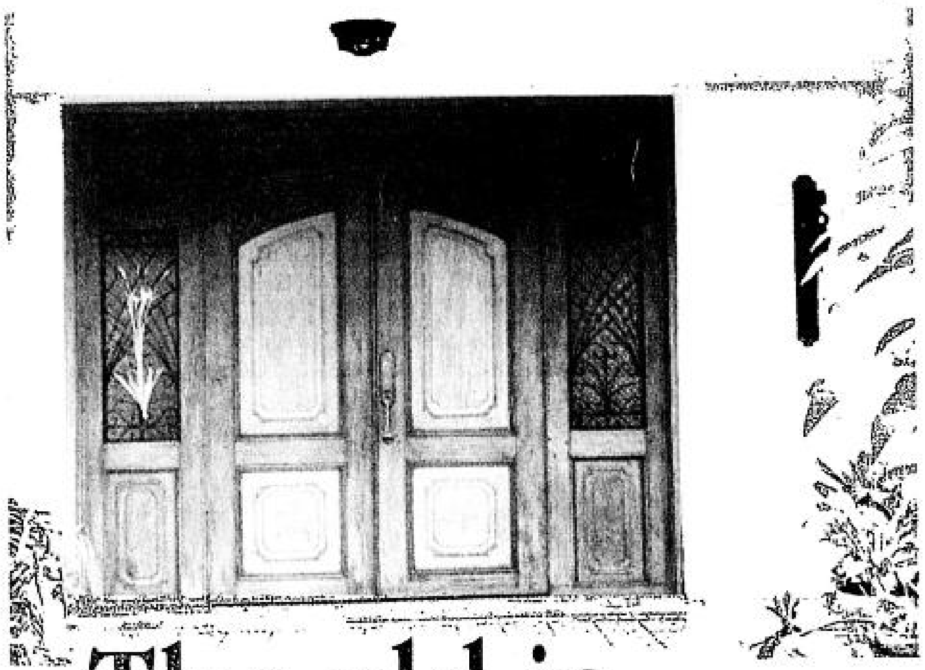

DOUBLE door made of sturdy *narra* is refitted as a front entrance.

THE UPSTAIRS hall and double door that lead to the rear veranda. Ignacio originally intended to use the door as front entrance but the first-floor ceiling had not been high enough.

The old is new again

Gil and Rose Scott's Marikina abode has been reconstituted from a vintage Laoag house but with a new soul

From page F1

tect had it taken apart piece by piece.

There was no way Ignacio could have saved the elegant machuca patterns. Despite this setback, however, they were still able to save substantial components that have now found their way to Marikina. Being an artist and a lover of Filipiniana herself, Rose readily shared Ignacio's vision. The same enthusiasm couldn't be said of the husband.

"You should have seen the look on Gil's face," says Ignacio with a chuckle. "He probably couldn't make sense of the expensive materials that we had trucked all the way from the North."

That slowly changed soon after Ignacio went to work. He wisely eschewed frills and instead came up with deft uses for old wood.

"The material itself makes for a strong statement," says Ignacio as he points to planks supported by several exposed trusses by the dining area. Several bolts that jut out from the trusses give the ceiling an antique feel. "Even without the furniture pieces, the house would be able to stand on its own because of the wood's personality."

The planks double as ceiling and flooring depending on what level you're in. Instead of using the painted surface for the ceiling, however, Ignacio used it for the floor. But not until he had the paint scraped off to reveal the wood's rich, natural grains. The sheen and texture are quite evident as soon as you step into the second-floor hall that leads to the five bedrooms.

Ignacio had the staircase—*narra* steps, *ipil-ipil* railings and all—refitted into its new home. Several sets of cathedral windows illuminate the stair's landing. When street lamps are on at night and the light hits the house, the glass windows give out a lantern's glow.

In fact, he made sure nothing went to waste. Windows and sidings, for example, were converted into kitchen cabinets. Even a window cut into several sections of multicolored glass became a light diffuser. The four-poster bed by the master bedroom is a structural piece in itself, and was actually fashioned from the old house's sidings. Another panel has been turned into a coffee table.

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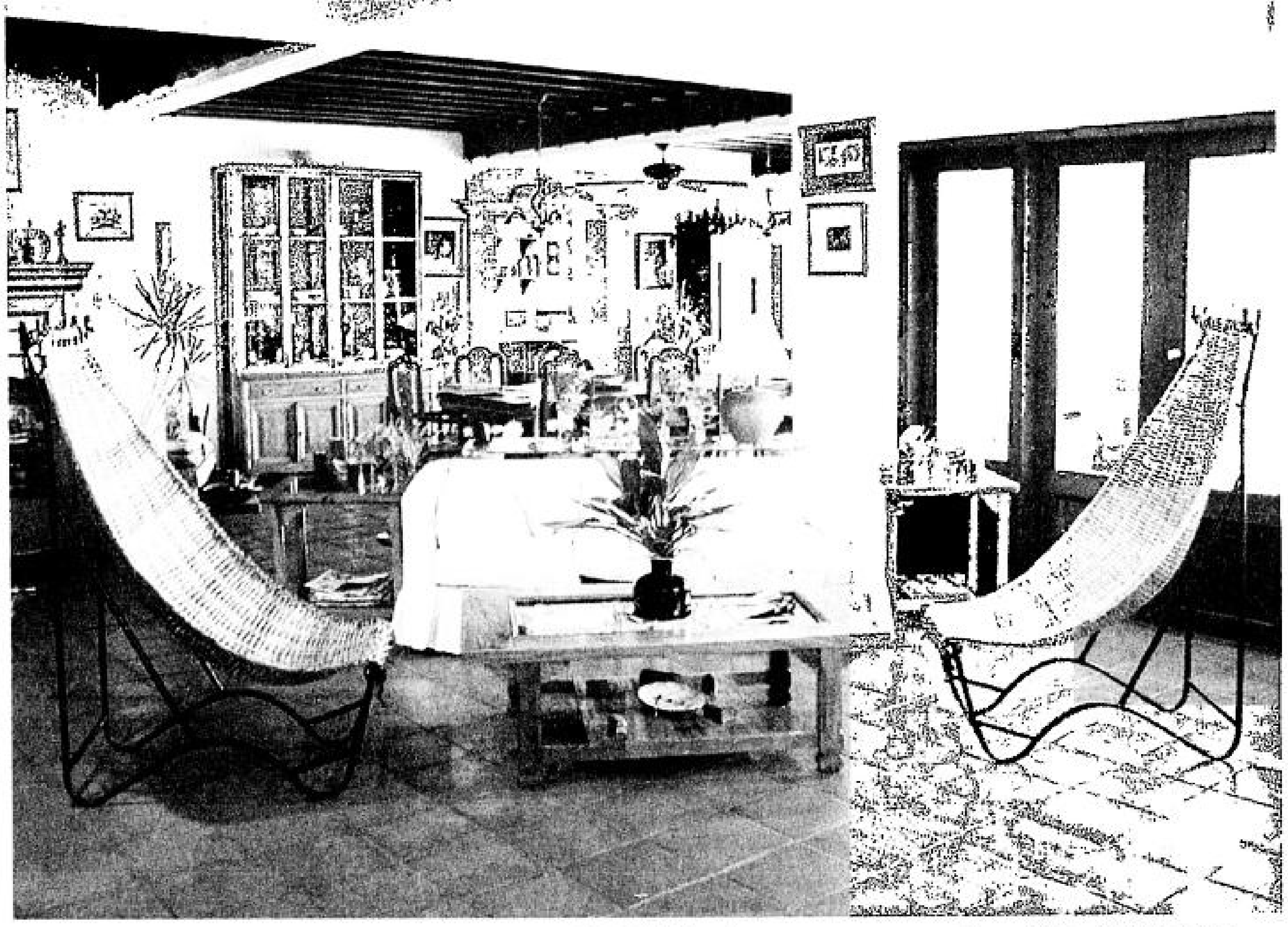
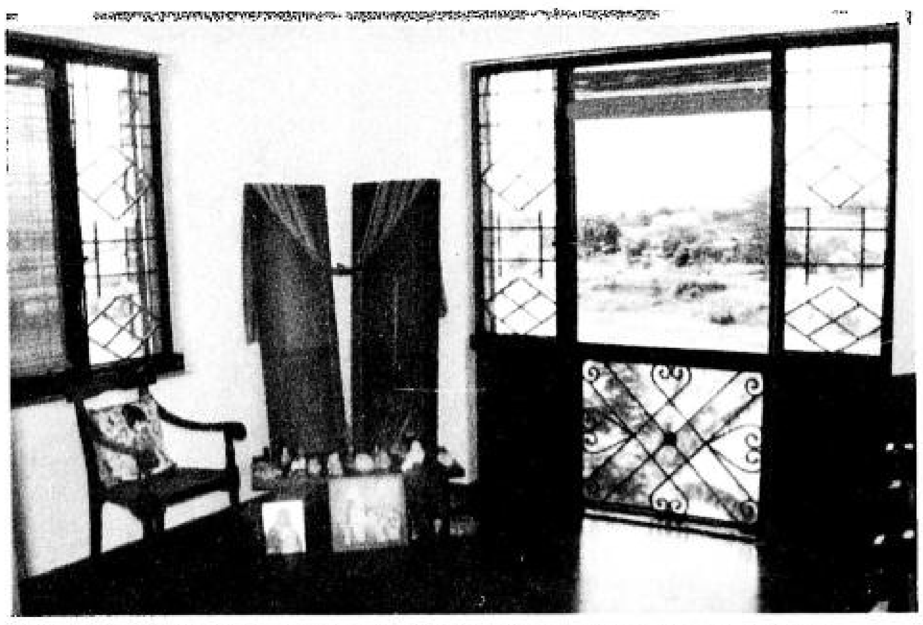


A VIEW of the living room and wooden trusses and planks that double as ceiling and flooring depending on where you are.

FURNITURE pieces are kept to a minimum to allow the house's wooden fixtures to stand out.

THE FOUR-POSTER bed is custom-built from bits and pieces of an old house in Laoag.



WINDOWS offer a rustic view of the Marikina River. A metal screen covers the *ventanilla*, while a glass panel bridges the space between the two wrought-iron sidings.

THE COFFEE table, divider and cabinet have been crafted from old wood as well.

Diving for garbage

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

THEY are called "scubasu-reros" because they use their diving skills to clean up the waters and beaches around them. Their official name is Friends of Balayan Bay (FBB), however, since that is the area where they operate. They are a group of diving professionals and *aficionados* (scuba and others) who take up the sport both for fun and environmental care.

A leading personality among them is Boy Venus who not only manages Ocean Colors, a scuba diving shop at Metropolitan Avenue, Makati City, but also a coastal resort in Anilao, Batangas, called Club Oscillaris. Boy says he's been involved in the diving industry for 18 years, 15 of them in the sport. It's easy to see why his environmental concerns come naturally, spontaneously. Maintaining resorts and enjoying the sea mean you've got to keep everything as clean and as beautiful as possible. As he learned soon enough, to achieve this means cleaning up not just the water and resort beaches, but the communities around them as well.

His next inevitable step was to organize a group of like-minded people, and that's how Friends of Balayan Bay came to be. They are basically people in tourism-oriented establishments, like resorts; individuals like diving professionals like Boy, which include diving instructors and diving masters who conduct diving courses and dive tours in the Bay and are, therefore, rightful stakeholders in the project.

There is need to expand membership (now composed of 13 resorts, 15 individuals), so that volunteers are encouraged to join and even non-diving resorts can become members. The idea is to maintain the high quality of the Bay. The areas they cover include the coastal waters of Mabini and Tingloy municipalities in Anilao, and land areas around them, never limiting themselves to underwater conservation alone.

But it is their work as divers that gave rise to the name that identifies them—*scubasureros*. The name, says Boy, may be original, but not the mission. There is an international organization called The Ocean Consultancy—TOC—which promotes an annual worldwide ocean cleanup (in the ocean or sea nearest the members). Participants, of which FBB is one, are given data cards to be filled while gathering garbage. It lists the kinds of garbage found, which are the most common, etc. The information from such data-gathering is meant to guide environmentalists or institutions in their future projects.

> The Friends of Balayan Bay take up scuba diving as a sport and a cause

For Friends of Balayan Bay, this is its third year as TOC member. They feel that as cleaner-uppers, they are getting better every time. On their first year, being neophytes, they simply did as each wanted to. But they soon learned that working together in concerted effort brought better results. Now there is more methodology to their data-gathering, and they foresee that in the near future, their data will contribute to the overall picture of ocean cleanups. Boy hopes that these will eventually establish a trend to help in ocean waste management

International cleanup events take place in November each year. But coastal cleanups are not a solution, according to Boy; only part of the campaign to create awareness of the problem and its needs. The solution, as he sees it, is to inculcate in the grassroots level, the need for proper waste management wherever waste is generated, which is why education and information dissemination are so important and why *scubasureros* must work even out of the ocean. This is why also FBB is glad it does not work alone.

Besides their members, FBB coordinates with groups like Mother Earth and Kabang Kalikasan Pilipinas (the local counterpart of World Wide Fund) for various cleanup projects.

Incidentally, FBB's cleaning activities underwater and on land have unearthed a lot of plastic garbage as well as gross stuff, like syringes, dead chickens and sanitary napkins, which make one wonder what people could be doing on the surface or beneath it to be able to throw away garbage of the sort.

But to the Friends, the task ahead is not to be squeamish, but to take things in stride, the better to prevent such garbage from being dumped in those areas again. So they make the whole experience a fun thing. They hold contests on who can come up with the oddest objects, and that's always good for a laugh.

Through it all, the FBB is motivated by one vision—to become a model community on its own, so that by the way they manage their resources, marine or land, they can show what can be done, and other communities can follow.

Success story

The Pollution Control Association of the Philippines (PCAP) recently named Coca Cola Bottlers Philippines' recycling program called Mission P.E.T. one of the Success Stories on the Environment for 2002. The ceremonies were held May in Subic, Olongapo City.

Mission P.E.T. (for Polyethylene Terephthalate) was introduced by CCBP in 2000 as an alternative to Metro Manila's garbage disposal problem. The program promotes the recovery and segregation of post-consumer PET bottles and aluminum cans to reduce the volume of waste dumped in landfills. Since it started, the PET program has gained multi-sectoral support and participation. CCBP has set up 12 recovery centers in Metro Manila to redeem the PET bottles and aluminum cans and to instill the value of recycling.

CFC launches 1st national trade fair

COUPLES for Christ will hold the 1st National GK Trade, Agri and Job Fair at the Riverbanks Center, Marikina City, June 15-23.

The best Filipino exporters and manufacturers from all over the country will participate in the trade fair. The products include shoes, garments, furniture and furnishings, toys and gift items, houseware, handicrafts, Christmas decors, jewelry and fashion accessories, pottery, garden estuary, processed foods and tourist destinations.

Meanwhile, the job fair on June 21 and 22 will have job matching for job seekers, and demonstrations in flower arrangement, computer technology for the visually impaired, restaurant services and reflexology. There will also be lectures on writing an impressive job resume, preparing for a job interview, planning one's career, etc.

Trade fair director Greg Monteclaro explains that the 1st National GK Trade, Agri and Job Fair is "the first step towards reawakening in the Filipino the conviction of his own greatness and potentials for making this country great again."

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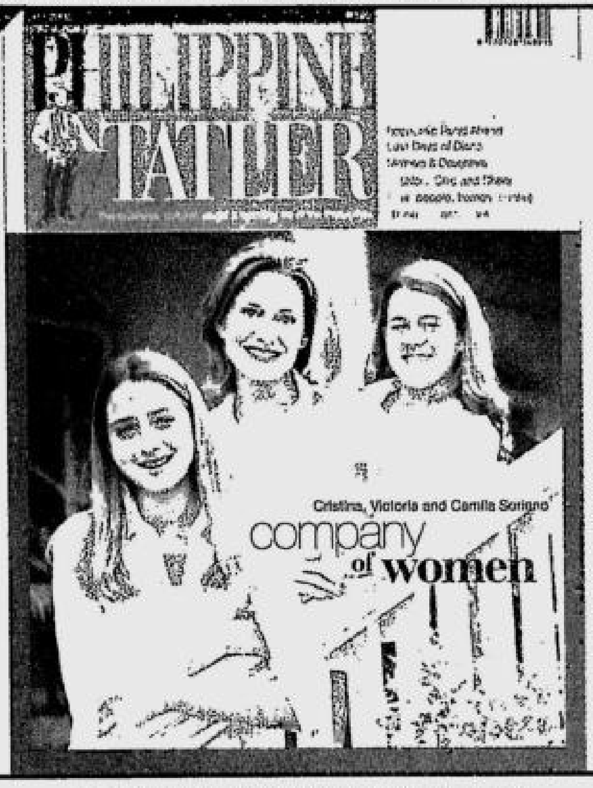


In this month's Philippine Tatler:

- Victoria's Secret: A look at the family life of one of Manila's most elegant women, Victoria Soriano and her lovely daughters
- Last Days of Disco: The era may be gone, but the fun and sometimes scandalous memories remain.

Plus: People, fashion, gossip, dining out, homes, travel, parties and more

Special garden and cooking sale for fathers

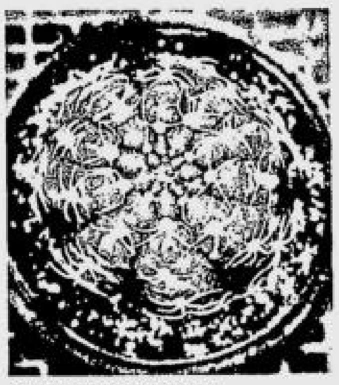
THE PURIFICACION Orchids and Ornamentals Inc. is holding a special exhibition sale until June 16 in connection with Father's Day.

The sale offers gift ideas for fathers fond of weekend gardening and cooking. On sale are garden tools, fertilizers, flowering plants, bonsai materials and culinary herbs such as basil, oregano, rosemary, thyme, and tarragon.

Purificacion also offers the following suggestions to make fathers feel special:

- Prepare his favorite breakfast or lunch and make his favorite milk or coffee.
- Clean the garage or wash his car. Mow the lawn and trim the hedges for him.
- Fix a leaky faucet or replace a busted light bulb.
- Go to church with him then treat him out or rent his favorite movie on video.
- If he is a book lover, get him a book that will interest him.
- Gift him with his favorite cologne or after-shave lotion. Prepare a garden barbecue and invite his close friends for.
- Give him a new set of garden tools. Help him build a vegetable or herb garden or tend a flower patch.
- Rehabilitate or re-landscape the garden for dad if he does not have time to do it.

Purificacion has outlets at the Manila Seedling Bank (cor. Quezon Ave. and Edsa), SM City North Edsa, SM City Fairview, SM Megamall and SM Superstore in San Fernando, Pampanga. Call 928-4831.



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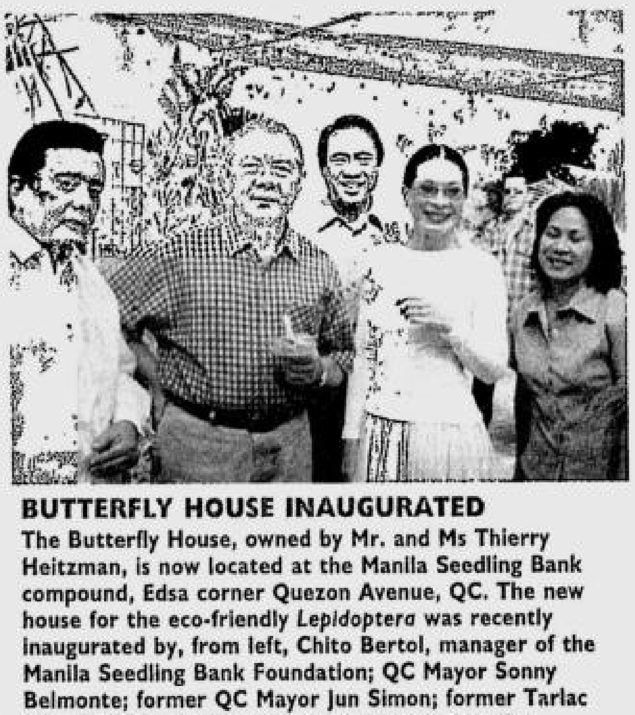
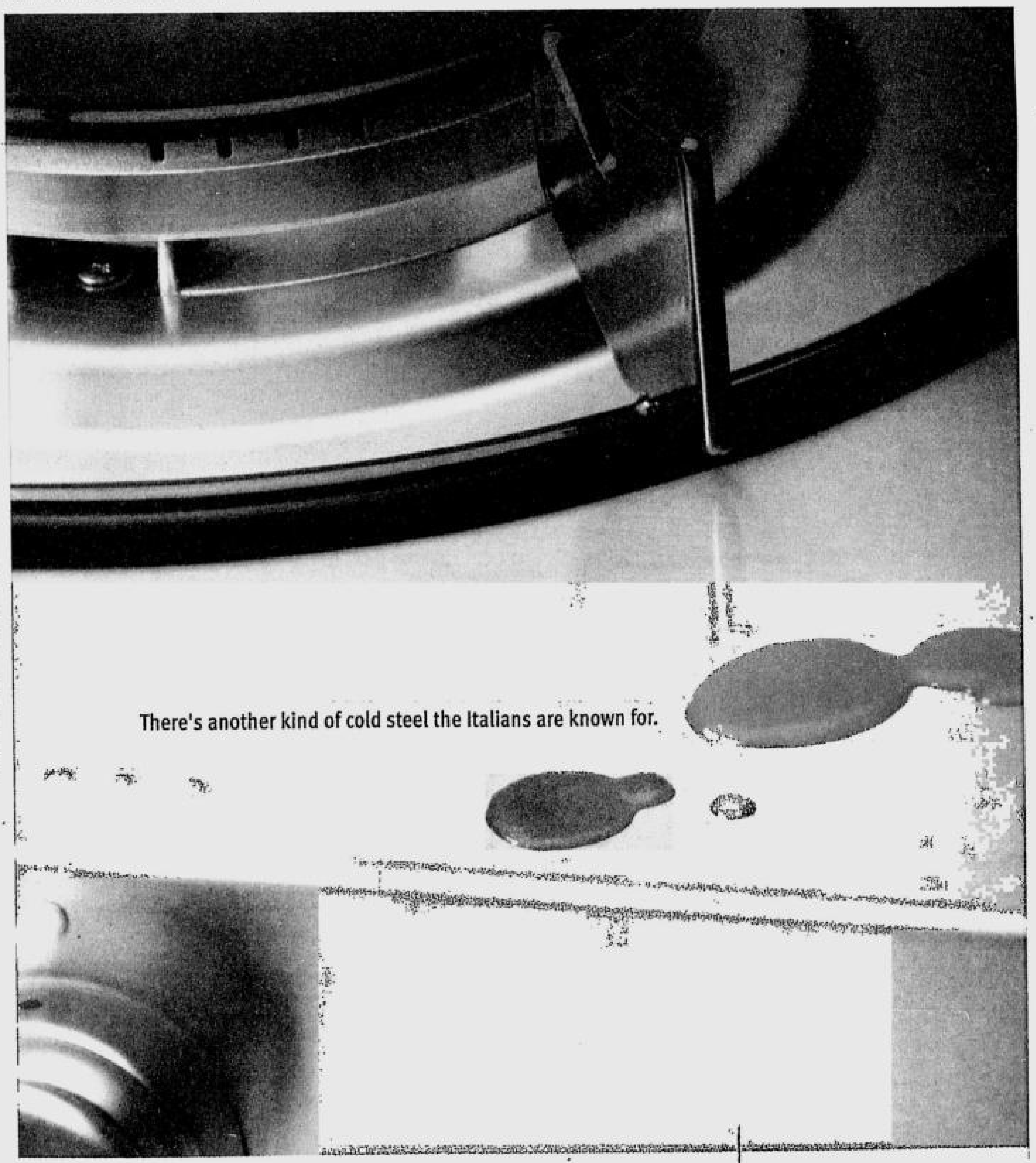


BUTTERFLY HOUSE INAUGURATED

The Butterfly House, owned by Mr. and Ms Thierry Heitzman, is now located at the Manila Seedling Bank compound, Edsa corner Quezon Avenue, QC. The new house for the eco-friendly *Lepidoptera* was recently inaugurated by, from left, Chito Bertol, manager of the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation; QC Mayor Sonny Belmonte; former QC Mayor Jun Simon; former Tarlac Gov. Tingting Cojuangco and Beth Heitzman. The Heitzmans were the first to open a butterfly house in the country for educational purposes.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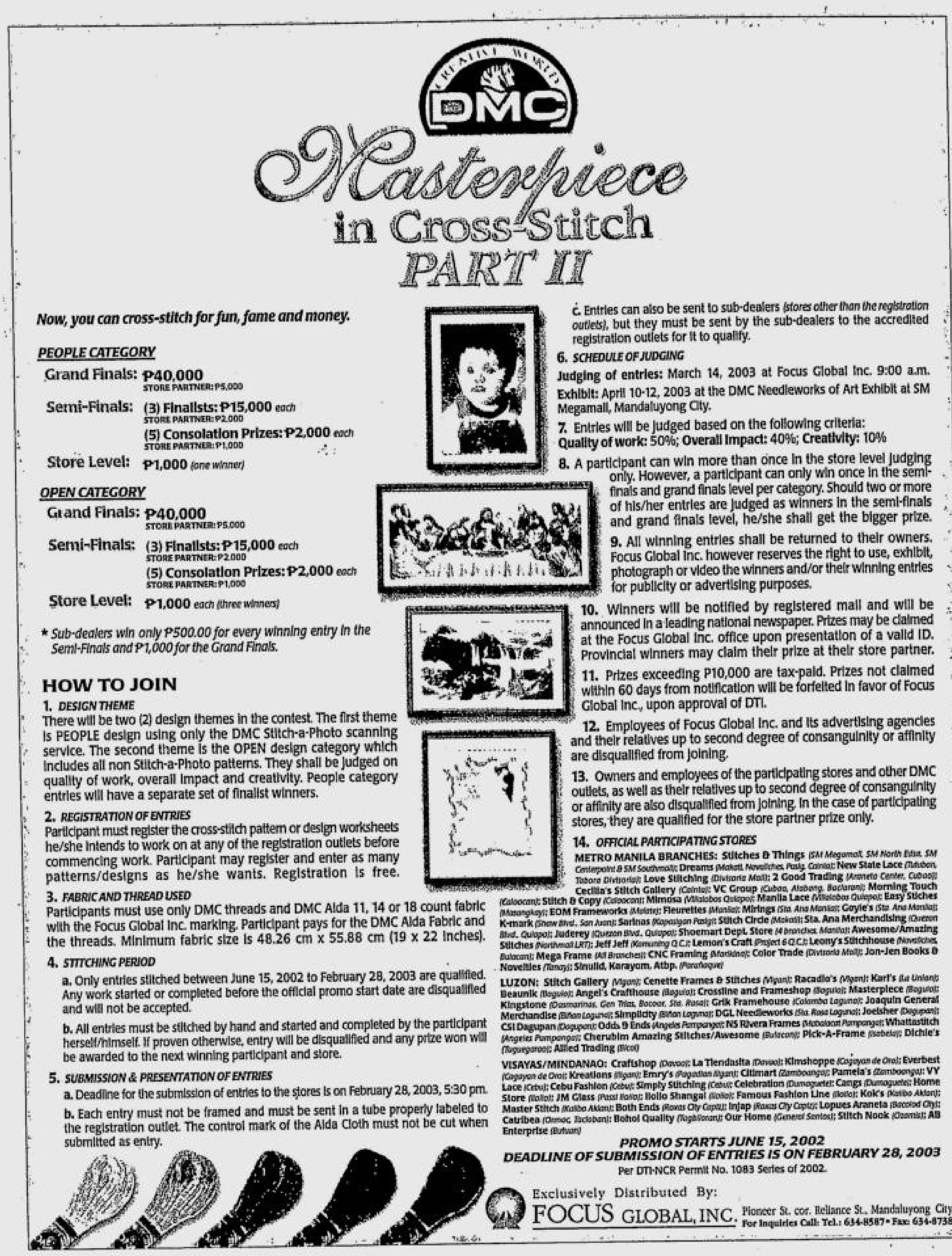

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(5) Consolation Prizes: ₱2,000 *each* STORE PARTNER: ₱1,000
Store Level: ₱1,000 *(one winner)*

OPEN CATEGORY

Grand Finals: ₱40,000 STORE PARTNER: ₱5,000
Semi-Finals: (3) Finalists: ₱15,000 *each* STORE PARTNER: ₱2,000
(5) Consolation Prizes: ₱2,000 *each* STORE PARTNER: ₱1,000
Store Level: ₱1,000 *each (three winners)*

* *Sub-dealers win only ₱500.00 for every winning entry in the Semi-Finals and ₱1,000 for the Grand Finals.*

HOW TO JOIN

1. *DESIGN THEME*
There will be two (2) design themes in the contest. The first theme is PEOPLE design using only the DMC Stitch-a-Photo scanning service. The second theme is the OPEN design category which includes all non Stitch-a-Photo patterns. They shall be judged on quality of work, overall impact and creativity. People category entries will have a separate set of finalist winners.

2. *REGISTRATION OF ENTRIES*
Participant must register the cross-stitch pattern or design worksheets he/she intends to work on at any of the registration outlets before commencing work. Participant may register and enter as many patterns/designs as he/she wants. Registration is free.

3. *FABRIC AND THREAD USED*
Participants must use only DMC threads and DMC Aida 11, 14 or 18 count fabric with the Focus Global Inc. marking. Participant pays for the DMC Aida Fabric and the threads. Minimum fabric size is 48.26 cm x 55.88 cm (19 x 22 inches).

4. *STITCHING PERIOD*
a. Only entries stitched between June 15, 2002 to February 28, 2003 are qualified. Any work started or completed before the official promo start date are disqualified and will not be accepted.
b. All entries must be stitched by hand and started and completed by the participant herself/himself. If proven otherwise, entry will be disqualified and any prize won will be awarded to the next winning participant and store.

5. *SUBMISSION & PRESENTATION OF ENTRIES*
a. Deadline for the submission of entries to the stores is on February 28, 2003, 5:30 pm.
b. Each entry must not be framed and must be sent in a tube properly labeled to the registration outlet. The control mark of the Aida Cloth must not be cut when submitted as entry.
c. Entries can also be sent to sub-dealers *(stores other than the registration outlets)*, but they must be sent by the sub-dealers to the accredited registration outlets for it to qualify.

6. *SCHEDULE OF JUDGING*
Judging of entries: March 14, 2003 at Focus Global Inc. 9:00 a.m.
Exhibit: April 10-12, 2003 at the DMC Needleworks of Art Exhibit at SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

7. Entries will be judged based on the following criteria:
Quality of work: 50%; Overall Impact: 40%; Creativity: 10%

8. A participant can win more than once in the store level judging only. However, a participant can only win once in the semi-finals and grand finals level per category. Should two or more of his/her entries are judged as winners in the semi-finals and grand finals level, he/she shall get the bigger prize.

9. All winning entries shall be returned to their owners. Focus Global Inc. however reserves the right to use, exhibit, photograph or video the winners and/or their winning entries for publicity or advertising purposes.

10. Winners will be notified by registered mail and will be announced in a leading national newspaper. Prizes may be claimed at the Focus Global Inc. office upon presentation of a valid ID. Provincial winners may claim their prize at their store partner.

11. Prizes exceeding P10,000 are tax-paid. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from notification will be forfeited in favor of Focus Global Inc., upon approval of DTI.

12. Employees of Focus Global Inc. and its advertising agencies and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining.

13. Owners and employees of the participating stores and other DMC outlets, as well as their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are also disqualified from joining. In the case of participating stores, they are qualified for the store partner prize only.

14. *OFFICIAL PARTICIPATING STORES*
METRO MANILA BRANCHES: Stitches & Things *(SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, SM Centerpoint & SM Southmall)*; Dreams *(Makati, Novaliches, Pasig, Cainta)*; New State Lace *(Tutuban, Tabora Divisoria)*; Love Stitching *(Divisoria Mall)*; 2 Good Trading *(Araneta Center, Cubao)*; Cecilia's Stitch Gallery *(Cainta)*; VC Group *(Cubao, Alabang, Baclaran)*; Morning Touch *(Caloocan)*; Stitch & Copy *(Caloocan)*; Mimosa *(Villalobos Quiapo)*; Manila Lace *(Villalobos Quiapo)*; Easy Stiches *(Masangkay)*; EOM Frameworks *(Malate)*; Fleurettes *(Manila)*; Mirings *(Sta. Ana Manila)*; Gayle's *(Sta. Ana Manila)*; K-mark *(Shaw Blvd., San Juan)*; Sarinas *(Kapasigan Pasig)*; Stitch Circle *(Makati)*; Sta. Ana Merchandising *(Quezon Blvd., Quiapo)*; Juderey *(Quezon Blvd., Quiapo)*; Shoemart Dept. Store *(4 branches, Manila)*; Awesome/Amazing Stitches *(Northmall LRT)*; Jeff Jeff *(Kamuning Q.C.)*; Lemon's Craft *(Project 6 Q.C.)*; Leony's Stitchhouse *(Novaliches, Bulacan)*; Mega Frame *(All Branches)*; CNC Framing *(Marikina)*; Color Trade *(Divisoria Mall)*; Jon-Jen Books & Novelties *(Tanay)*; Sinulid, Karayom, Atbp. *(Parañaque)*
LUZON: Stitch Gallery *(Vigan)*; Cenette Frames & Stitches *(Vigan)*; Racadio's *(Vigan)*; Karl's *(La Union)*; Beaunik *(Baguio)*; Angel's Crafthouse *(Baguio)*; Crossline and Frameshop *(Baguio)*; Masterpiece *(Baguio)*; Kingstone *(Dasmarinas, Gen Trias, Bacoor, Sta. Rosa)*; Grik Framehouse *(Calamba Laguna)*; Joaquin General Merchandise *(Biñan Laguna)*; Simplicity *(Biñan Laguna)*; DGL Needleworks *(Sta. Rosa Laguna)*; Joelsher *(Dagupan)*; CSI Dagupan *(Dagupan)*; Odds & Ends *(Angeles Pampanga)*; NS Rivera Frames *(Mabalacat Pampanga)*; Whattastitch *(Angeles Pampanga)*; Cherubim Amazing Stitches/Awesome *(Bulacan)*; Pick-A-Frame *(Isabela)*; Dichie's *(Tuguegarao)*; Allied Trading *(Bicol)*
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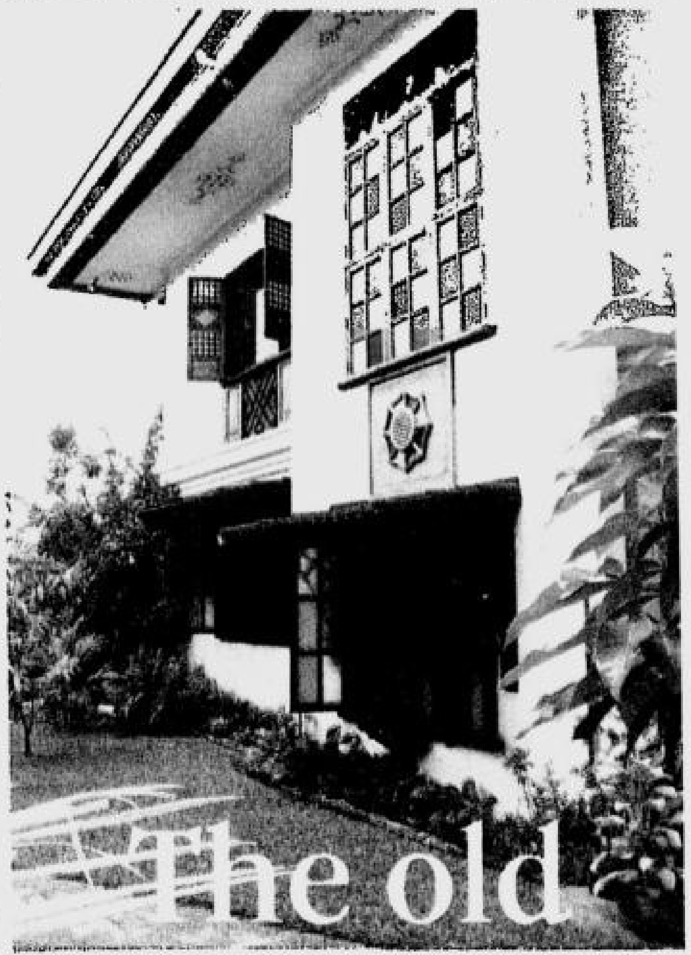

The old is new again

JOVEN Ignacio's modern-day version of a *bahay na bato* includes shingled eaves and windows made of *capiz* and cathedral glass.

From page F2

But one need not enter the Scott residence to admire it. The use, or more precisely reuse, of old wood spills outside for everyone to see. Nothing can probably top the front entrance—a huge double door made of *narra*, sandwiched by glass panels supported by wrought iron grills and framed by the same hardwood.

Mimic

Actually, the taller double door leading to the rear veranda upstairs was meant as the front entrance. So, what happened? "It didn't fit the ground floor because of its low ceiling," Ignacio explains. No matter since he soon found a way to refit it on the second floor.

Several windows also mimic the configuration found in houses of yore. This time, however, Ignacio put several practical twists to them.

Metal screens cover *ventanillas* to ward off pesky mosquitoes. A pair of *capiz* panels swings instead of slides to reveal more wrought iron work. What was supposed to be an open space in the middle is now covered with clear glass. Rattan curtains shield the interior and its inhabitants from the harsh afternoon sun.

Surprisingly, Ignacio saw no reason to drastically alter the residence's floor area and overall pattern when its owners finally decided to go Filipino. "Nor did I replicate the old house in Laoag," he says. "I gave it a second lease on life by working on what was available." With the owners' blessings, of course.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

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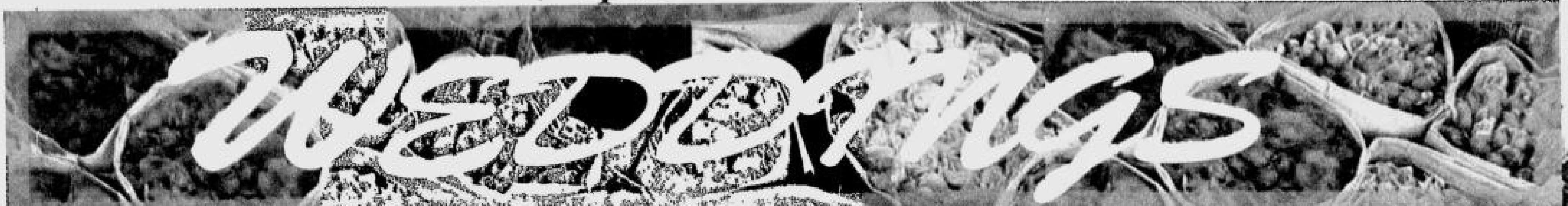
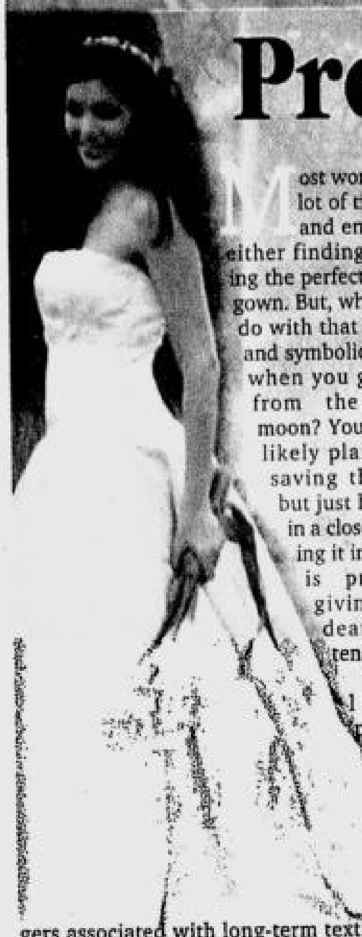


Preserving your wedding gown



Most women put a lot of time, love, and energy into either finding or making the perfect wedding gown. But, what do you do with that beautiful and symbolic garment when you get home from the honeymoon? You are most likely planning on saving the dress, but just hanging it in a closet or stuffing it into a chest is practically giving it a death sentence.

The following preservation guidelines will help you avoid the dangers associated with long-term textile storage and will make your wedding dress an heirloom garment that can be enjoyed for generations to come. These guidelines apply to all fine fabrics and textiles that have historical significance and require special attention for long-term storage.

Get a clean start

Waiting until after the honeymoon to take protective precautions for your wedding gown is waiting too long. Stains that you may not even see, such as from perspiration, will immediately begin to take their toll on the delicate fabric. Ideally, you should make arrangements to have your gown professionally dry cleaned as soon as possible after your wedding day. Have the gown taken to a reputable cleaner who will also inspect zippers and buttons that may need to be repaired or tightened. You should make a special note for the cleaners about any spots or stains, particularly on the train, that may need special attention. The gown should also be inspected for loose stitches. Once you have the gown home and clean, you are ready to store it for future generations.

Long-term storage

Lay, fold, roll, or hang?

Gravity exerts pressure that can stretch or tear the fibers of hung textiles over time. Storing your wedding dress on a hanger for a long period of time is not recommended. Laying the gown flat or storing it in a rolled or folded position is preferable to hanging it. If you plan to hang your gown for any length of time, you should pad the hangers with cotton batting covered with unbleached cotton. These materials are commonly found at craft and quilting supply stores.

If you decide to store your gown in a folded position, remove it from storage a couple of times a year and fold it along different lines. Pieces that have been folded on the same lines for a long period of time will eventually develop stress tears along the folds.

For items that will be stored in a folded position for a long period of time, acid-free tissue paper (non-colored) or a clean piece of cloth should be placed between the folds. If you plan to hang your linens for any length of time.

The dangers of wood acid

Do not store your wedding dress in a cedar (or any other type of wood) chest without protective coverings between the wood and the fabric. All wood contains acid that will, over a period of time, make an impossible-to-remove brownish stain on any fabric it has direct contact with. A gown stored in direct contact with wood will eventually be weakened and destroyed by the acid in the wood. All wood products, including cardboard and regular paper, also have acid that causes fiber deterioration. This problem can be remedied by wrapping your wedding dress in acid-free tissue paper or storing it in an acid-free box. Typical stationery stores don't carry acid-free materials. These are most often found in archival supply stores.

Room to breathe

Your wedding gown needs air to circulate through the fibers or it will eventually start to rot. For this reason, you should not wrap your gown in plastic for a long period of time. Also, the static in plastic acts as a magnet pulling dust from the air right into your gown if the plastic covering is unsealed. True, sealed plastic covers keep out dirt and grime, but they also prevent needed air from circulating through the fibers. Furthermore, if the piece is even slightly damp when placed in a plastic bag, mold will soon start to form. Also, some plastics produce textile-destroying hydrochloric acid when in contact with moisture for long periods of time.

Regular check-ups

Take your heirloom wedding gown out of storage every few months to check its condition. Even well-stored items are subject to air pollution, chemical residue from washing and handling, and mildew.

Temperature matters

Extreme changes in temperature are harmful to your wedding gown. Ideal temperatures for long-term storage are between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit. Unheated attics and basements are undesirable storage places. Small rooms or closets with space heaters should also be avoided.

Humidity sensitivity

Too little or too much humidity can also damage your wedding dress. Humidity levels between 45 and 55 percent are recommended. Avoid storing textiles in bathroom closets or laundry rooms where humidity often rises above acceptable levels.

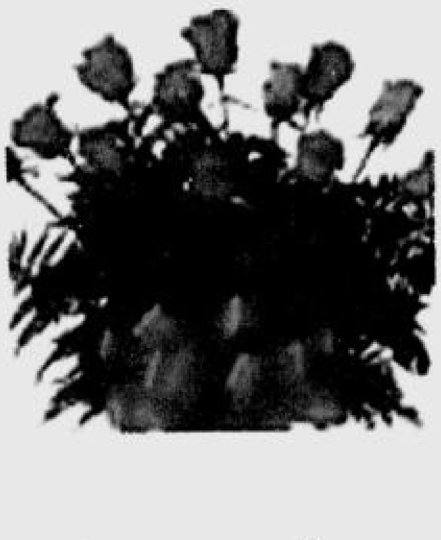
Fight ultraviolet light

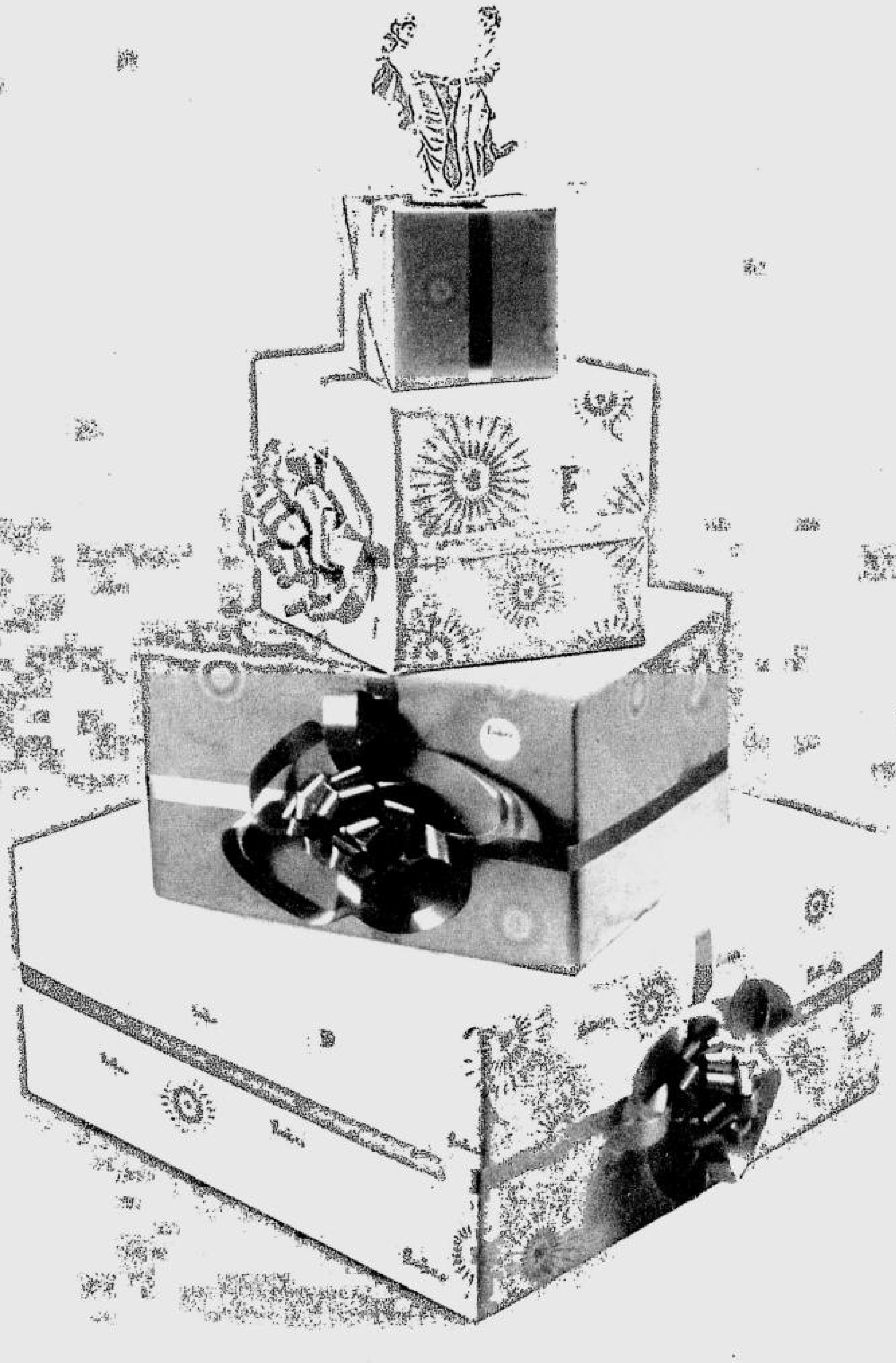
Frequent or constant exposure to ultraviolet light, such as sunshine or fluorescent lights, will eventually cause your wedding dress to disintegrate. Always store the gown in a dark place.

Avoid ironing and starching

Your wedding dress should be cleaned, but not ironed, before storing. Ironing makes fibers tense and brittle which increases the risk of tears if the piece is stored in a folded position. Also, starch in fabrics attracts various pests and absorbs mildew-forming moisture. Starch should be removed from your gown before putting it into long-term storage.

From SpecialtyLace.com





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Keeping the sweet start from going bland

AT THE START of a relationship, aside from the usual set of vows, the man and woman somehow make an enthusiastic pledge to keep the romance going long after the honeymoon's over. While a small percentage dream of a relationship similar to their folks, those who come from not-so-perfect families—if there is such a thing as a perfect union, could only hope their marriage would not be a remake of their parents—one with a sweet start and a bland end.

It is quite amusing, however, that no matter how hard a couple tries to keep the passion aflame, it just won't stay that way, or at least not at the same intensity.

Of course, there will always be exemptions. And some do succeed in keeping the love alive. But for the greater percentage who would greatly appreciate some tips on how to spice up a five-year or so marriage, Family Reader (FR) magazine, has cooked up some spices that just might add zing to your relationship.

Family Reader (FR) and My Home magazines invite all parents to another round of interesting talks on its fifth of a series of parenting workshops dubbed "Smooth Parenting Café".

Make it a date on June 15, 9 a.m. at the Clement Room, Discovery Suites in Ortigas as FR magazine presents "You and Your Man."

As the family grows, mom will have to take on a tough task of dividing time among the kids and daddy. With the kids alone being a handful of responsibilities, there is not much quality time left for dad. And this could be where a relationship begins to simmer down.

FR redefines quality time with demonstrations on soothing massages and other home relaxation treatments that mom can give dad after a long day at work. Touch therapy, as it is often called, massage time can also be time for cozy chats to catch up and keep the communication lines open.

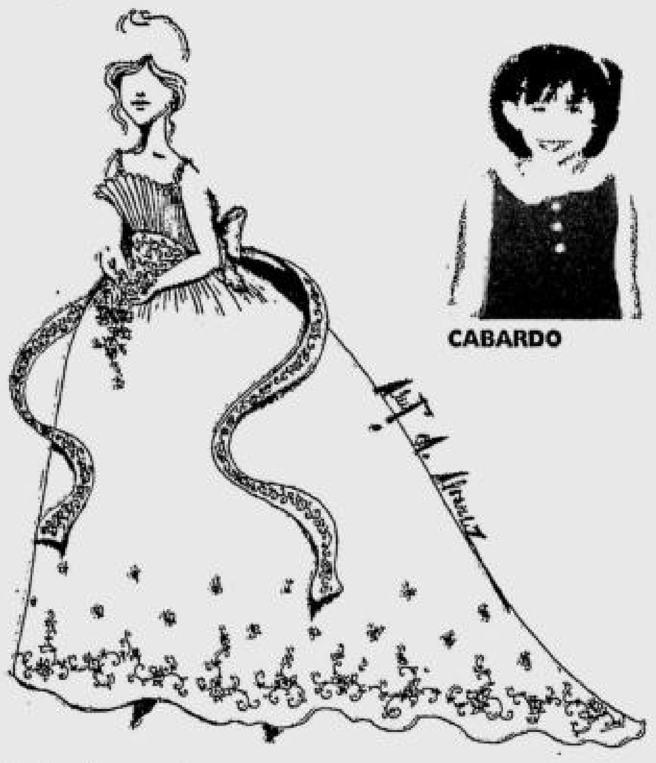
Listen up, mom, and take note of some essential tips on invigorating massage and fitness from Kaye Chombon of Slimmers World. You could also pep up dad's wardrobe with pointers from Dockers on the latest clothes and accessories for him.

When the water pipe starts leaking or the door hinges loosen up, try not to be such a helpless homebody. Save up on utility repair bills and get things done without having to wait for your handy man. My Home magazine shares some lessons on how to do minor repair and practical projects that help keep the household running smoothly.

As an exclusive privilege, FR and My Home subscribers will enjoy a special admission rate at P250. There's an extra treat for subscribers who bring along a friend. The rate drops to P150 for the subscriber and P250 for each friend. For non-subscribers, admission is at P500. Non-subscribers who bring their friends will only be charged P250 each. Free snacks will be served during the workshops. Raffle prizes and loot bags will also be given away to participants.

"Smooth Parenting Café" is co-presented by Earth+Style Corp., and Citibank, in cooperation with Discovery Suites. The roster of sponsors include Slimmers World, Vaseline Lotion, Goldilocks, Dockers, Domex, Kleenex, Nestle Pure Life, IBM-Advanced Career Education, and Lessons.ph. Media sponsors are 105.1 Crossover, Joey 92.3 and Mommy Academy.

For inquiries, call Maia Manalaysay at 631-2859 or 633-4785. You can also log on to www.ivegotstyle.net or get a copy of Family Reader and My Home magazines at leading newsstands and bookstores for details. Both titles are published by Mega Magazines and Publications Inc.



CABARDO

Majayjay princess

JOHANNA Adelina Isabel "Jai" Villareal Cabardo, five-year-old daughter of Jabe and Edd Cabardo of San Pedro, Laguna, will be a princess at the yearly Santacruzan in celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Majayjay, Laguna on Sunday, June 16. Her princess cut gown of French tulle, embellished with crimson rhinestones spread on the bodice and hemline, in heart red, is an original by designer Abet Alvarez of Biñan, Laguna. Her brothers, Java and Jolo Cabardo, will escort Jai.

A real buddy for the modern family

OUR EVER-CHANGING world demands the modern family of innovations to keep up with the fast-paced and dynamic lifestyle of today. A part of this demand begins at home. The house is where every member of the family finds refuge for all the necessities they need, to be equipped for everyday tasks.

And the most harassed part of the house is the kitchen. Its versatility, either for breakfast, lunch, dinner or simple craving, demands it to be attuned to the lifestyle of the family. Therefore, a kitchen device, which is able to keep up with the needs of the family, is necessary.

Imagine the scenario: the rice cooker is stashed inside a forbidden place in the cabinet; the rice container is kept in the dirty kitchen outside the house where rats, cats, or what-have-you play in at night, canned goods are scattered around the sink, or on top of a cabinet, or on the living table even. Plus, silverware such as spoons and forks kept in some God-forsaken place like you're in a Finders Keepers game of Nickelodeon.

The modern family definitely doesn't have the luxury of time to figure out where all these things are kept, much less to sit down and rearrange the whole house. The father is in a hurry to beat the morning traffic to even look for the rice cooker for a sumptuous breakfast. Mother is pressed for time as she has an appointment with a client, to manage with what available canned goods are in sight. Brother is late for an exam to even look for a socket for a quick hot coffee. Sister doesn't have a minute to even locate the spoons and forks. The family is in great hustle, figuring out where they can find what they need. Then, voila! Comes the answer to the hustle and bustle—Kyowa Kitchen Organizer to the rescue.

The scenario is changed. Kitchen essentials such as rice cookers, rice dispensers, utensils, microwaves and other kitchenware are put into place. Thanks to Kyowa Kitchen Organizer. Now, the modern family can have a one-stop-shop for all its kitchen needs fit for their fast-paced routine. The Kyowa Kitchen Organizer has everything the family needs: built-in rice dispenser, sliding shelf where you can place the rice cooker, built-in socket, side rack for ladies or pot holders, a two-layer cabinet for canned goods and condiments, plus a top—spacious enough to store small kitchen appliances like microwaves. It even has rollers underneath for easy transfer. Made from quality materials with a minimalist design, the Kyowa Kitchen Organizer is guaranteed to last. Its absolutely a kitchen buddy for the modern family.

MANILA
G SUITES

BRIDAL FAIR CONTRACT SIGNING

'Love is in the Fair' this July, as presented by Manila Galleria Suites, in cooperation with Behind the Scene Productions. Once again, witness an array of beautiful gowns, lovely flower arrangements, exquisite jewelry and souvenirs, engaging fashion shows and many more wedding must-haves on July 12 and 13 at the hotel's Manansala Hall. Shown (seated, from left) are MGS director of sales and marketing Pearl Peralta-Maclang, BTS managing director Ricci Reyes Ang, MGS director of communications Eunice Acejo, PR and marketing officer Arnold Cruz, (standing, from left) BTS AE Jofrey Barcelo, MGS communications officer Ross Mapanao and BTS Kenneth Bacuteza.

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What should I know when I choose my videographer?

When should I start looking?

As soon as you have your reception venue booked, you should start looking for a videographer. Your live wedding memories captured on videotape is one of the only investments you are making in your wedding. Everything else will be gone as soon as the clock strikes midnight (or earlier if you're having an afternoon wedding).

How far in advance should I book?

You should book your Videographer at least a year in advance, but you can book even earlier than that as long as you already have a reception. You will benefit in many ways by booking your videographer early. Prices increase constantly. Videography is largely dependent on technology and technology is costly and volatile. Therefore, every time a videography company upgrades their equipment, which, in the case of good videographers, is pretty often, it will be reflected in the prices. If you booked early, you will be getting the advantages of the new technology and equipment without the disadvantages of higher prices. If you are the first person to book your particular date, you will have first choice of the videographer who will be videotaping your affair.

Quality vs. price?

Quality is never expensive, it's priceless. You are investing a lot of money in your wedding day. Your wedding video will be the only live recreation of it., Therefore, choose wisely and never sacrifice quality, you'll live to regret it. Also, when you are evaluating a videographer, don't base your decision on just seeing a recap (highlights, reflections, etc.). Ask to see at least the entire edited ceremony coverage. It will give you a good idea of what your video will look like. Even bad videos can come out decent on a recap.

What can I expect to pay?

It is reasonable to expect to pay anywhere between P100,000 and P200,000 for professional quality videography depending on your choice of coverage and/or package. The best way to work out a videography budget is to allocate approximately 10 to 15 percent of your entire wedding budget to videography. Remember, once all is said and done, this is all you'll have (with the exception of your spouse) to remember it by. You will enjoy your video for years to come with your parents, family, friendsand children. How many other services can you say that about?

What kind of equipment should I expect to be used at my wedding?

There is a variety of great equipment available today to produce a superb, professional video. The best choice is a 3-chip digital camera with low-light capability. The digital format allows for 850 lines of resolution, which creates a super crisp picture. The digital format also allows for digital transfer via fire wire to the editing equipment, eliminating any loss of quality. Low light capability allows the videographer to be extremely unobtrusive, eliminating the need to use any additional lighting at your ceremony and reception. The recommended cameras include: Sony DSR-300, DSR-300A and JVC-500.

How do I know I am picking the right videographer?

There are many factors involved in choosing the right videographer for you. First, consider the quality and style of the work. Second, evaluate the kind of equipment they will be using. (Cameras, editing equipment, wireless microphones, etc.) Third, choose a videographer who is a member of a local Videographer's association. This is important because these organizations provide continued education in the field of videography as well as constant updates on new developments in technology, equipment, and technique. In addition, organizations such as these have rules of conduct, which often outline client relations and provide an outlet to file a complaint, should it become necessary, which will be investigated and a fair course of action determined. Fourth, make sure that the video company you choose offers enough of the services that you may someday need. For example, do they offer a DVD? You may not have a DVD player yet, but most likely someday you will and will want to transfer your wedding video onto it. Lastly, make sure your personalities are compatible. The last thing you need, is to feel uncomfortable on your wedding day because your videographer is pushy or obtrusive or demanding in any way.

How many cameras should I have at my wedding?

Generally, one camera, operated by a professional videographer, is sufficient to capture your memories on film. However, if your budget allows for it, a second camera adds a beautiful dimension to your video, especially during the ceremony where the participants are generally standing still and where the videographer's movements are restricted. The second camera can capture elegant creative shots from the balcony, from the side of the altar, or the back of the church. Because the footage from the second camera is later inserted into the footage from the main camera, it is not dependent at all on audio, therefore, allowing the videographer the freedom to capture great moments as they unfold. The back of the bride's dress as she is walking down the aisle, the mother's tears, the close-up face shots as the vows are recited, are all captured best using the second camera.

You may also choose to have a second camera at the reception, although, if you are inviting less than 250 guests, it may not be crucial. At the reception, the second camera may be useful for capturing the bride's and groom's reactions as the best man toasts, the reactions of the parents during the first dance, or the mother crying as the father dances with the bride. The cost of having a second camera at your wedding ranges between P20,000 and P50,000 depending on the amount of coverage. This price should also include the editing involved to incorporate the second camera footage into the video. It is a costly addition, but well worth the money in the long run.

What kind of package should I choose?

The package you choose should depend on what you would like to have in your wedding video and how much you're willing to spend. There are many segments you can add to your wedding video such as the bride's home coverage, the groom's home coverage, the park scenes, second camera, photo montage, honeymoon montage, recap, closing credits, or love story. First determine what segments or levels of coverage are most desirable to you. Then evaluate your budget to determine what you can afford. Be careful not to do this before you actually choose the videographer or you may find yourself seriously sacrificing quality and the final look of your video in order to add baby pictures. The videographer should always be chosen first before you start working on the package. It is a visual art, not a tangible product. If your videographer selection depends on whether you get a photo montage, recap and honeymoon for P80,000 or just a photo montage for P75,000, you will lose sight of what's really important which is getting a beautiful and creative wedding video. In addition, when determining the package vs. budget, consider the most important things first; the preparation coverage (if you like it) and the second camera before you start adding baby pictures, honeymoon pictures and recap. You can always request to add pictures after the wedding, should you change your mind, but you can't add the second camera or the preparations ever again.

What kind of company should I be looking for?

There are so many different companies offering wedding videography today; it's difficult to list them all. There are photographers who also offer videography, even DJs who offer video (for an additional fee). There are wedding warehouses that do dozens of weddings per day and there are moms and pops businesses that can only do one. There are companies who will offer the latest in digital technology including DVD and those still using the dreaded 1-chip analog format. Ultimately, you must make your own decision on what you prefer, but here are some factors to think about.

WHATSHOULD/PageG4

inner beauty

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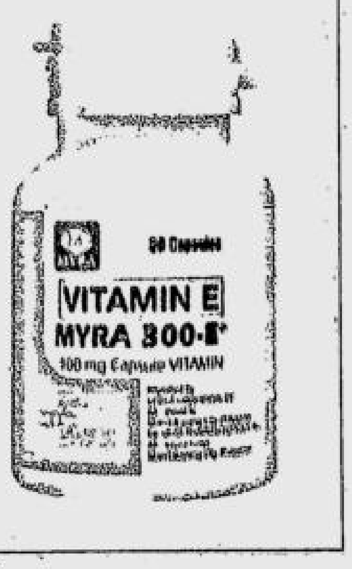

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What the bride should have on her wedding day

- -Aspirin
- -Tissues
- -Nail file
- -Extra panty hose for entire wedding party
- -Clear nail polish for those who forget
- -Same color nail polish (for touch ups)
- -Fabric tape
- -Sewing kit (small)
- -Safety pins (large & small)
- -Band-Aids
- -Nail glue
- -Brush and comb
- -Hairspray
- -Bobby pins
- -Make-up for touch ups (lipstick, rouge, powder, eye make-up remover and q-tips)
- -Visine
- -Water and paper cups
- -Mints
- -Smelling Salts for the faint-away bride or groom with cold feet
- -Bottle of chilled champagne!
- -Extra pair of contacts
- -Baby Wipes or Wet Ones for removing stains
- -White chalk or baby powder, to cover stains that won't come out

From 1800bride2b.com

'Thank Yous' are important, too

It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it. There's no other way around it. You can't pre-print 'em and you can't just say, "Hey, thanks!" and call it a day. You've got to write a personal note; the sooner the better.

The truth is, if you procrastinate, it becomes even harder and more of a chore. If you write your note almost as soon as you receive your gift, whether it be engagement or shower, you will actually be able to "feel" thankful and that will come through in your words. Not only that, they would flow more easily. Etiquette says you should wait no more than two to three weeks for gifts you receive before your wedding. As for gifts you receive after your wedding, your honeymoon gives you a break, about four to five weeks.

When you do decide to tackle the inevitable, don't try to do them all at once. It's much bigger than you could know. Your 'Thank You' will sound progressively canned, begging to be released from your ball and chain.

Take the pressure off of yourself by making sure you assign someone to keep track of all gifts received during your engagement and bridal shower. This is best done by having them keep a list rather than write on the box or slipping a note inside each box where they can get lost or thrown out.

Ordering Thank-You notes:

The more traditional way is to order formal cards the same time you are ordering your invitations.

You can go with pre-printed thank you cards from the store. These are just as acceptable and less expensive than formal cards.

Think about sending the "informal" pre-printed cards for gifts before the wedding so you can send them out right away. This way, you can opt to send formal cards for after the wedding and save a little.

Writing Thank-You's

- Make sure they are handwritten.
- Mention the gift specifically and how you plan on using it.
- Acknowledge each gift separately.

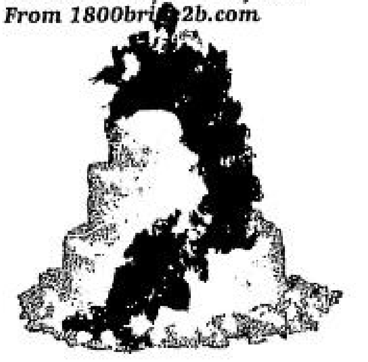
In other words, don't combine thank you's for the shower and wedding gifts.

Don't forget to acknowledge your bridal party and ushers. Also, for all those who helped make your wedding special, including any wedding professionals and family members.

Share the responsibility by having your fiancé/husband help you out.

For money gifts, there's no need to mention the exact amount. Just acknowledge it by mentioning your plans on using the cash, for the downpayment on a house or even your honeymoon.

From 1800bride2b.com



What should I ...

FrompageG3

Although it's easier to deal with one company that will be providing both photography and videography for your wedding, are you sacrificing anything? Absolutely. Most photographers claiming to do both primarily do photography and may very well be good at it. However, for most of them, videography is an added service and not an expertise. Often, these companies subcontract shooters and editors instead of producing the work themselves. Therefore, you can never be sure who will actually film or edit your video and whether the final result is going to look anything like the original demo you saw. In addition, by hiring two separate companies, experts in their field, to perform each of these services, you will provide an additional perspective/angle to the wedding as well as insurance in case one of them doesn't pan out. If a couple is unsatisfied with one of the services, usually the other one makes up for it. If it's the same company doing both, you have nothing to fall back on.

Does size matter?

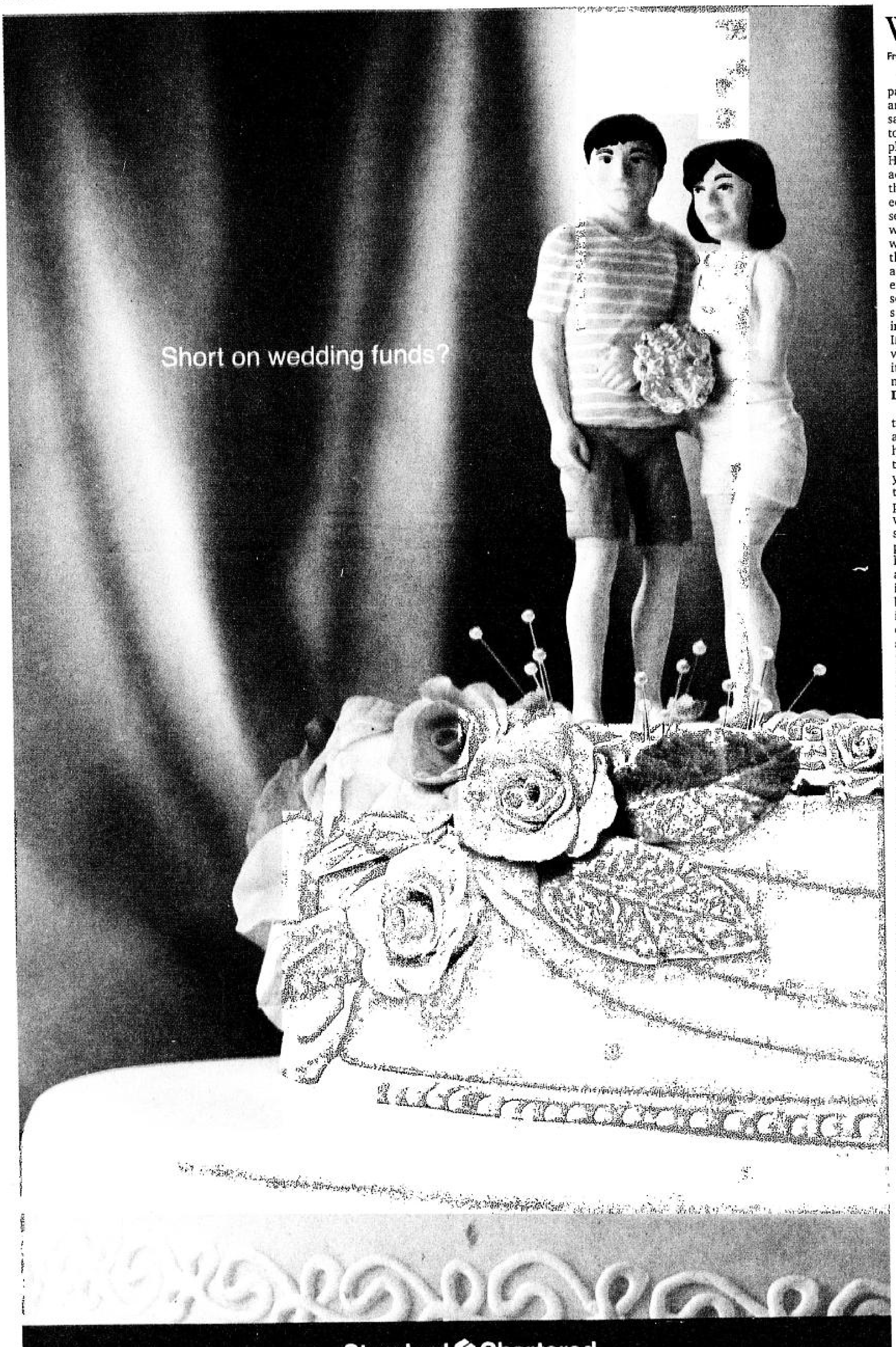
The benefit in hiring a one-man operation is that you always know who will film and edit your wedding, or do you? What happens if he or she gets sick or sprains their ankle or has an accident? (remember you Wedding is almost a year away when the booking takes place, anything can happen) Who, then will film and edit your wedding? Is there a back-up camera of the same caliber that is available to the replacement videographer? The benefit of hiring a very large company is that there is always someone else to fill in, but who will it be to begin with? Is your video going to be customized to your specifications or will it be generic, created in a cookie cutter process - because there are so many weddings scheduled you get lost in the shuffle? Are they concerned about customer satisfaction or is it just a numbers game? The wisest decision in selecting a videographer is to choose one of a medium size that schedules a limited number of weddings per day (3-4). In this case, you will know who will videotape your wedding before you book the service, yet if something happens, an equally competent videographer utilizing the same state-of-the-art equipment would replace him/her. A company that's big enough to have access to state-of-the-art technology, yet small enough that they will care whether you are satisfied because ultimately your referral is their bread and butter, is your best bet.

Who should I get referrals from for a good videographer?

Generally, family and friends work best because they have previous experience with a particular videographer. Referrals from photographers are also good because they see first hand how a videographer operates at a wedding and often hear comments from brides and grooms in regard to the quality of the final product. Be weary, however, of recommendations from sources like reception halls and churches. Most of the time, a videographer makes it on a reception hall's "recommended vendors" List if they pay a hefty referral fee. When a recommendation is not based on performance, it is worthless. You may also contact a local videographer's association to get referrals. Most associations hold annual video competitions and will provide you with the names of the winners at your request. Wherever you obtain a referral from, make sure you visit the company first, view the work and then make a decision. !

Never book over the phone, unless you have already seen the work of that company. Never rush into making a decision.

From Video Magic Studios (www.videomagicstudios.com)



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